Sixty Years' Recollections of Milford

By NATHAN STOWE

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MR. NATHAN STOWE

Sixty Years' Recollections of Milford

And Its Chronology from 1637 Up to and Including 1916

By NATHAN STOWE

The Whole Edited and Revised

BY

NEWTON HARRISON, E. E.

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For the Village Improvement Association

MILFORD, CONNECTICUT
1917

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FOREWORD

By Newton Harrison

Written in June, 1917

In these memorable times, when the great war, the Armageddon of nations, is being fought out relentlessly at the crossroads of destiny, this brief page in the life of our community has been completed. But, however unimportant the town of Milford may seem to those of the world who have travelled in other lands, or visited the great cities of the United States, it must be remembered that the settlement of Milford, like that of the rest of New England, was prompted by a love of liberty so sincere, so deep and impelling, that though broad seas had to be crossed, in what today would be called cockle-shells of ships, and a wilderness had to be explored, inhabited by wild and savage tribes, the early pioneers, imbued with a holy faith in their ideals, and an iron resolution to succeed, faced these dangers with stout hearts and undaunted minds.

To them, a new land was preferable to one in which their rights were withheld, even though the dangers to be faced were such as to make the strongest and most capable fear the end. It was an adventure in which only rugged personalities engage, if the ideals held in view are great enough to overcome the terrors of the flesh, through the strength of their appeal to the spirit. The early settlers sought for a liberty in the wilds that was denied them in the cities of men. They sought to establish justice under the free skies of uncharted shores, because it was not given to them by the courts of the land they left. It was this sacrifice on their part that gave to American civilization its ever-enduring greatness, based upon the right to be free and the belief in justice.

It is not difficult to understand, therefore, that the reasons leading to this strange pilgrimage of men and women from the land of their birth were those of power and privilege unjustly established in high places. The right to be free, the right to

worship as they saw fit, the right to exclude from their lives the influence and mandates of a landed aristocracy, in combination with the desire to build homes on the soil of the new world discovered by Columbus, led this community to face the dangers of this enterprise. A strange unrest was stirring the Anglo-Saxon world. Oliver Cromwell in 1640 had set fire to the political deadwood that encumbered England. A great revolution was about to break out. The head of the King was to fall. England was to be reconstructed. Driving and crushing social forces were at work. The Puritan spirit grew. To escape this charged atmosphere, certain groups of daring men and women decided upon emigration as the remedy for their ills. Through one of these groups New Haven found its origin. In 1639 the first settlement of Milford took place. It was not long after, in the historic count of time, that the famous regicides found safety and shelter in Milford, when the representatives of the new English monarchy, erected on the foundations built by Cromwell, were searching land and sea for them. So Milford was born of the Cromwell era, when the powerful forces of democracy were shaking the thrones of kings. And now history repeats itself. The ideals of these pioneers, of these brave men and women of Milford, of the colonies of Cape Cod, as well as those farther South, have stirred the hearts of the many nations. An empire of freedom has arisen. It has taught liberty to England. It has given to the lilies of France a new and enduring significance. Russia has shaken off the shackles of servitude. In Italy, the fire of freedom glows. It was Switzerland and the early colonists who first demonstrated to the world, undeniably and practically, that democracy is possible and right.

The sixty years covered by the references to the men and women and homes of Milford people, are those that have been part of the life of Mr. Stowe. His father was born in 1793, ten years after the Revolution had ended. He is thus linked to its times and events by one fully in touch with that great period. His contribution, therefore, springs from a mind that has known of provincial days, and can well contrast them with modern times, its rush and bustle, its telegraphs, telephones, express trains, Atlantic liners and flying machines. He can well compare the simplicity of post-revolutionary days in terms of his father's opinions, with the tremendous and eclipsing

change that has made the world but a neighborhood, and rendered impossible the isolation of a small town from its intruding and rapidly growing environment. He presents a series of pictures of Milford as it was. He touches upon old customs, and resurrects the incidents that clung to his memory of people that have long since passed away. It is all related in a way that carries with it the strange atmosphere of earlier days. A chronology compiled by him takes up the history of Milford from its very beginning in 1639. The separate and chief events of the sixty years his recollections cover, are categorically presented in the chronological record to which reference is made. This contribution by him has been prepared by hours of labor and sacrifice, and it is but fitting that the community should be made aware of the fact.

The cosmopolitanism of Milford is becoming more marked. The children of all races now live within its boundaries. They come from Calcutta and Hong Kong in the Orient, from the frozen fields of Russia, from the sun-kissed lands that smile beneath Roman skies, from the West Indian Islands where Columbus first saw the goal of his dreams, and the far northern reaches of Canada, where French is the patois of the people. And on this soil, through the stimulating, instructive and vital influences that comprise the social, industrial, political and intellectual life of America, irritating differences are removed, the basic elements of citizenship are developed, and whatever the race or creed of the emigrant, a new liberty-loving spirit is born, at one with the enduring ideals of Washington, the humility and nobleness of Lincoln, and the strength, dignity and purpose of our courts of justice.

Milford, as an historic center, has been one of the foci from which radiated the principles of free government. From it wandered the community that founded the city of Newark. Names, illustrious in the past and present of the United States, may be found chiselled on its tombstones. As small nations have made the history of the world, small settlements have made the history of America. Among them may be counted Milford. The United States is therefore unique among nations. All races have contributed to its development. It is the greatest organization the world has ever seen of co-operative forces. Through the warp and woof of the texture of American life the golden threads of idealism predominate. The spirit of emi-

gration is the spirit of progress. When this unrest ceases, and smug complacency takes its place, opportunity cannot find the proper soil for its roots. There is a withering and a dying. We are trying a vast political experiment. It is the experiment of a restless people. Liberty, Justice and Humanity are our watchwords. They must serve to reconstruct the lives of all emigrants. They have helped Milford to give to the nation some of its leaders. They are still the watchwords of our lips. From the efforts of all those brave pioneers who crossed the seas to find a place of freedom, who built towns in the wilderness, some of whom gave Milford its name and inspiration, the United States of America has arisen.

This great nation is now engaged in a mighty struggle with the same forces that gave it birth. The old colonial spirit, the soul of the small and scattered settlements of 1776 has permeated every state in the Union. We have entered into a new war against autocracy, perhaps the last that shall ever be fought. But the principles of 1776, the right of a people to rule themselves, are what we wish to transmit to the races of Central Europe. The shining vision of a free world is the picture before our eyes. If America has lived to gain in purpose and power through the establishment of the highest principles of national life, then that purpose and that power can only live in the future, if it is unstintingly lent to others, to secure for themselves and mankind the rights that are ours today. Therefore, we battle shoulder to shoulder with the upholders of liberty, with the democratic nations of the world, against the usurpers of power and the pirates of privilege. From Milford sons have gone forth already, as of old, to lay down their lives on the altar of liberty. Many more will follow, and prove to the world that the spirit of democracy kindled in Cromwell's day still lives; that the rights we believe to be inalienable, for which men died in 1776, are as powerful in their call upon men's souls today as then; that when the Armageddon was fought at the cross-roads of destiny, our defenders of liberty did not falter, and among those who nobly lived, suffered and died Milford's sons were not absent.

Sixty Years' Recollections of Milford.

CHAPTER I.

At a regular meeting of the "Village Improvement Association," held at the D. A. R. Chapter House on the 11th day of July, 1910, a resolution was offered by Mr. Camille Mazeau and regularly adopted by the Association, providing for the preservation of such information as might be elicited from elderly people now living, relating to the physiographical features of our Town, from their earliest recollection, and to include such traditional lore as might be considered reliable or desirable. Your historian in undertaking to gather such information will not expect that everything contained in his report will be verified by indisputable proof, but will be open for such correction as from time to time may be advisable—the prime object being to gather information as nearly correct as may be, and to preserve the landmarks of Old Milford. From the trend of debate at the above stated meeting, the writer was impressed with the need of immediate action, more especially as he realized that what was quite vivid in his own recollection, seemed to many of those present to be ancient history, or was entirely unknown to them. Within the lifetime of some now among us such changes have been wrought as almost to obliterate the former landmarks and replace them with something new and strange.

We will begin with a date, which between then and the present, covers a period of about seventy-five years, but will welcome any earlier history that may be obtained as well as that which may be given by young people to date. A very great obstacle to the recording of fact is that we do not fully appreciate the importance of events occurring in our own time and presence, and fail to make a note of them while yet fresh in the memory.

The writer must rely upon others for information not only preceding his own recollection, but for much that escaped his

notice. Seventy-five years carries us back to the year 1835 before the advent of the railroad, the telegraph or the daily paper. In this community there were then few of the implements for labor saving that are in common use among us today. The Smithy was the apex of manufacture in metal, water-power the source for driving our flour and sawmills, and the treadmill, for sawing wood for the wood-burning locomotives when they became a feature among us. These were marvels of progress. The locomotive itself did not cease to be a wonder for some years, and it has been said that so great a man as Daniel Webster prophesied that any device that could move overland a load of ten tons at a speed of four miles per hour would revolutionize the traffic of the world, and his prophecy was not far wrong except in his underrating the forces then latent in the brain of his contemporaries. About sixty years ago the Town Wharf (formerly Perit's) was the port of entry for nearly all the merchandise that entered our Town from New York and other ports. Upon the arrival of "The Sloop" or packet, the wagons from all the stores assembled at the Wharf and took away each its quota of the cargo. Wheat, flour, bran and feed were even then the chief part of the cargo, but general groceries, lumber and coal were all brought in by water. Besides the sloop, other vessels were required at times to bring in lumber and coal. The Coopers and Carriage Manufacturers sent away their wares and received their supplies by vessels. There were a number of sailboats for pleasure and in summer on pleasant days and moonlight nights they were seldom at anchor, and the merry parties might be heard in song as they sailed, and the writer recalls those sweet tunes with a longing for a repetition of the same.

At the head of the Wharf fronting the west side of the roadway stood Captain Mallett's cooper shop, and opposite was a large spring that served both the Captain and Mr. Samuel Burns as receptacle in which to keep their hoop-poles moist until required for use. Mr. Burns' shop is yet standing, but the land between it and the street was partly low and marshy and partly salt meadow, while just above the present entrance to the coal yard there stood a large red storehouse. Both this and the cooper shop on the opposite side of the street were well shaded and with the flowery bank by the roadside on the hill, formed an attractive picture which was well balanced on the

other hand by the sparkling water in the foreground backed by the beautiful verdure of the Harbor Woods. A thoroughfare "under the bank" at the edge of the green meadow with its calamus beds and springs of pure water, led to the old tannery of Miles Merwin where now is the straw hat factory. On the bank grew several buttonball trees and beneath them on the grassy slope among the long-stemmed dandelions, were often seen groups of children making dandelion chains of the stems.

In the winter season when the Harbor was frozen and navigation closed, the hill at the foot of Wharf Street was a favorite resort for coasting for children out of school hours and young ladies and gentlemen in the evening. Mr. Elisha Stowe and his son Sydney and their families then owned and occupied the property now known as the Rogers place, and it was to this house that old Dr. Sweet moved when first he came to our Town. Mr. Isaac Rogers later purchased the property which I learn had at one time been owned by some member of his family, and by him some changes and additions were made, but the main part of the house appears outwardly much the same as sixty years ago. This property was a part of the Major Samuel Eells homestead and was bought by Mr. Peter Perit at the same time that Capt. Stephen Stowe came into possession of the Stowe House, now the residence of Howard Platt. If it were necessary to show that this house is entitled to rank among the oldest remaining in Town, the following extract from the will of the said Major Eells furnishes the evidence:

"Major Samuel Eells, formerly of Milford, Conn., now of Hingham, Mass., one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, died the 21st day of April, 1709." Extract from his will: "Item First, That my beloved wife Sarah do within eight months after my decease, or upon the demand of my son, Samuel Eells, of Milford, in Connecticut Colony, quit her claim unto my said son and to his heirs and assigns forever of, in and unto my house and land in Milford, that I made over to my said wife upon her marriage with me, by instrument bearing date the 28th day of July, 1689. Item: I give and bequeath unto my said son, Samuel Eells, my old dwelling house, barn and homelot and orchard in Milford aforesaid, with all my outlands," etc. He further devises to his daughter-in-law (Frances Oviatt Eells, widow of his son, John Eells), for her use

during widowhood, his new house, etc., and again he devises that upon condition of the decease of his son Samuel before his wife that she should be forced to part with the house that was her former husband's (Capt. Samuel Bryan) then she should if she survive his son have one-half his aforesaid old dwelling house, "which side she pleaseth," during widowhood, etc.

The foregoing are extracts from the will and relate to the "Stowe House" on Wharf Street, showing that the house was standing and not new in July, 1689. Colonel Samuel Eells not only survived his second wife Martha (Whiting-Bryan) Eells, but afterwards married the Widow Rebecca (Wilkinson) Baldwin, grandmother of Freelove Baldwin, Freelove being then about thirteen years of age. It is stated that upon the marriage of Samuel and Rebecca she moved from her own house on the east side of Wharf Street to that of her husband on the west side and opposite hers. This would indicate that the house that was demolished when Mr. Samuel Burns erected his was formerly the Baldwin place. In February, 1754, the Eells property was conveyed by Nathaniel Eells, son of Samuel, as follows: That part now known as the Rogers place was bought by Mr. Peter Perit and the remaining L-shaped piece running from the street back to what is now the line of Mr. Alonzo Burns' yard and following that line to the harbor, was conveyed to Capt. Stephen Stowe. The new house before mentioned in the will of Major Samuel Eells formerly stood where now stands the house recently bought by Mr. Webber, which said new house was taken away when Mrs. Frederick Stowe erected the present house about 1840.

Where now stands the house of Roger Baldwin stood until about "the fifties" an old house in which in Revolutionary times lived the Doctor Carrington who with Capt. Stowe volunteered to accompany the sick American soldiers to their temporary hospital, where forty-six of them died.

Where now is the house of Edward Parmelee stood the house of Major Samuel Burns, and in his latter days the Major might frequently have been seen sitting on one of the side seats of his front porch, with his high white silk hat and blue coat with gilt buttons, and leaning upon his stout cane. Cherry trees were then used for shade trees outside the walks on the street, and Wharf Street was lined with them on both sides a

greater part of its length. Some elms still stand in front of Capt. Fred Stowe's place and perhaps from well out in the street in front of Capt. Michael Peck's, now the Franklin place. Capt. Isaac Green's house stood with little change for more than sixty-five years, the Captain, though perhaps somewhat eccentric, was a very public-spirited man and did much for the section in which he lived. It was he who opened the street which bears his name. He was largely instrumental in the erection of the Liberty Pole that for many years stood on the "green" in front of Mr. George J. Smith's residence. His rather spare but tall and stately form in a long military cloak and tall silk hat, always completing his street dress, was a familiar figure.

It is perhaps well to state here that until recent times the property was all enclosed by fences along the streets to prevent the cattle then commonly kept in or near the center of the Town from entering unbidden. Crossing Green Street near the corner facing Wharf Street stood a one and a half story house, the front slope of the roof ending in and forming the roof of the porch which extended across the front. The house stood high, and on the southerly side the cellar opened on a level with the ground. As the cellar door was almost invariably open and the cellar dark and the ground skirted with thick currant bushes next the street fence, it had a most forbidding look to the youngsters of the neighborhood, when at about dusk one of them chanced to pass. Presumably from the menacing appearance, it was known to the younger element as the haunted house. It was occupied by a journeyman cooper, Joshua Give. It was laid low when Mark Mallett replaced it with the building now standing, probably about 1855. Capt. Mallett's house, with the exception of an added portico, is little changed. His barn, which stood about where now stands the house of Omar Platt, was moved back beyond the line of Mr. Platt's fence, and has since been taken down. Capt. Michael Peck was a master carpenter and built and lived in the house now owned and occupied by Miss Franklin. It was he who built the present First Congregational Church, which has since been twice enlarged. The dwelling presents much the same appearance as when first put up. Uncle John Baldwin's place, since occupied by Mr. Elmer Barnes, was a rather small house standing near the line on the southerly side of

the plot, and the northerly side was well covered with buildings, the first, standing near the northerly fence and about twenty feet back from the street, was a small but comfortable building in which was domiciled the father of Mr. Baldwin, who in his declining years was cared for by his son and family; extending back to the rear fence were the various outbuildings necessary to house the stock and animals of a small farmer's homestead. The small building now standing at the rear of the lot was for many years the "Wepowaug Engine House," and then stood where is now the northeast corner of the lawn in front of the Town Clerk's office. The house in which Mr. John Shepherd now lives was the property of Mrs. Noble Bristol, who later moved to New Jersey, and like that of the Tibbals family, next with the exception of refurbishing and the addition of dormer windows, presents much the same appearance now as then. The same may be said of the store on the corner, which was at that time kept by Messrs. Mark and George Tibbals as a grocery, and like most, if not all of his stores, was a sort of club room for men in the evenings, each one of which claimed its own particular coterie who were invariably in their chosen places by the stove or upon a barrel-head.

Returning to the easterly side of Wharf Street: The houses at the lower end have been mentioned, but where now is the residence of Mr. Morton Tibbals formerly stood the barn and outbuildings sixty years ago owned by Mr. Lockwood Burns. A low building fronting upon the street next the northerly line was then the headquarters of Mr. Dennis Bristol, who maintained a passenger and baggage express between this town and New Haven. Mr. George Smith had but a short time before discontinued a like express and stage business, and had settled near the Housatonic River on the ground where now is part of Judge Root's property at the "Ferry," as it was yet called, though the ferry had been out of existence from the establishment of bridge connection by the turnpike company and from which they derived a revenue from the tolls exacted from passengers. Sometime about the time of the Civil War the turnpike company gave up their maintenance and collection of tolls and the state now assumes the maintenance of the road, and the two counties that of the bridge. Mr. David Merwin's house on Wharf Street is much the same now as sixty

years ago. The outbuildings are new. Where now lives Mr. Burgess then stood the house of Mr. Charles Peck, a popular manufacturer and dealer in boots and shoes. The house in which he lived was the same that is now on Green Street, owned and occupied by the Langner family. It stood, before removal, about four feet from the front fence and about the same distance from Mr. Cornwall's line. The old shop stood near the well and Mr. Merwin's line, and was also moved away, its new location being at the west side of the street at the head of the Wharf. It has recently been demolished. Mr. Peck's yard was about one foot below the grade of the street, and a large greening apple tree overhung the sidewalk and spread well over the dooryard. The paling was a weather-worn picket fence with an inclination to lie down and rest. The entrance gate, like a large majority of gates at that time, had a heavy weight swinging on a chain between it and a stout post to keep the gate closed, and it announced the closing with a sharp bang. The Cornwall house, perhaps with the addition of a front and side porch, remains the same as when occupied by Mr. George Cornwall, the progenitor of the Green Street branch of that family, Mr. Grove Cornwall, the father of Mr. Thomas Cornwall, being a brother and the only other bearing the name in the town until children were born to them. In those days it was the custom of shoemakers to take out a "seat of work" from New Haven or some local dealer, and hiring seat room in a shop, place therein their "kit," consisting of a cobbler's bench and tools, and being thus installed, begin the plying of their vocation. The stock drawn consisted of the uppers, cut by the employer, and the soles and other material in the rough. The journeyman had them closed, i. e., the seams stitched and the binding sewed on by women of the town who did such work, and when ready he made them up and returned them to the employer and received in turn another "seat of work" to repeat the operation. A building once used for that purpose stood back in the yard and was so used by Mr. Cornwall and his tenants. Deacon John Smith owned and conducted a general dry goods, notion and grocery store, where is now located the dwelling of Miss Josephine Beach. A broad shed or porch extended across the sidewalk and was supported at the curb by neat turned posts, the walk beneath being paved with brick. A summer kitchen stood just back of the store, and the whole

space between these buildings and the dwelling house on the corner, in which he lived, was covered by a grape arbor, which in season always seemed to be loaded with choice fruit. The Deacon and his family occupied the part of the house recently vacated by Dr. Beach, and in the other side Major William Bull lived with his family. Major Bull later moved West, where some of his family are yet living. Mrs. Deacon Smith was a sister of Mr. Everett Benjamin, who founded the jewelry business in New Haven, to which Mr. George H. Ford succeeded. On the Wharf Street side, the walks were shaded by fine maples, and on the Broad Street front by large stately elms, which have within a few years succumbed to the ravages of the pests. The Deacon's store was a quiet and orderly place, with settees on the northerly side of the room upon which might have been seen the youth and more sedate adults, especially when the weather was such as to keep one indoors. No boisterous or unseemly conduct was allowed, but a generous welcome was accorded such as would behave, and the Deacon himself enjoyed a clean joke as well as the next. Two sons and a daughter alternated as his clerks. Facing Broad Street and bordering on the line of the Adolphus Baldwin plot stood the tailor shop and store of Mr. William Brooks. The building was later removed to and yet stands upon the ground in the rear of Mr. Brooks' new store, since, the store of Mr. Barnes, druggist, now occupied by John Howes.

CHAPTER II.

Millneck formerly comprised that section extending along the harbor front from Fowler's Mill on the Wepowaug River to Beard's Creek. Where now stands the straw hat factory was formerly the tanyard of Miles Merwin and of his son David, but at the time of which we treat, though the buildings were yet standing, it had come to be used for other purposes, and at one time had served as a brewery for root beer, Mr. Greenport being the brewer. Just prior to the demolition, the buildings were used to store such articles as might accumulate at a boat landing. "Flagg and Baldwin" secured the property and cleared the grounds, removing, besides the building, a reel upon which had been kept a fishing net which stood by the water at the swimming hole, which hole was about where now are the foundations of the steam boiler and engine that furnish power to the works. The Merwin property included the Homestead which was about sixty years ago occupied in part by Mrs. Anna Merwin and her daughter, Louisa, and in part by the family of Mr. Andrew VanHorn. There was also a small building used as a store situated about where now is that of Mr. H. W. Cornwall. This part of the property has passed to the ownership of Messrs. F. & E. L. Cornwall, and the former dwelling house has now become their store. This business was founded by Mr. William Cornwall, who in the days of the hoop skirts first took the agency for such goods and travelled for a firm of manufacturers and later began the manufacture on his own account, and from the sale of these goods gradually enlarged his sphere until through the efforts of himself and his successors the present business has resulted.

The old "French" homestead was a large shingled house standing on the site of the present Dumraese property quite close to the street, to the sidewalk of which the steps directly led. It was used in part as a select school, Mr. Jonas French being the principal. The house was so much injured by lightning more than fifty years ago that it was considered beyond

repair and was taken down and the present house erected in its stead.

The Dickinson house, though not as well kept as formerly, has changed but little, if any. The barn stood back from the lane at the foot of the lot. Adjoining the Merwin property was that of Miles Davidson, which soon after passed title to Jonah Platt, who added an ell part on the east side to accommodate his son who began housekeeping there. Mr. Platt's store was at the westerly side of the plot and stood high above the sidewalk. Its identity has been lost in the almost solid form that has since appeared.

The next building was that of John Welch Merwin, now the store of Messrs. Harrison & Gould. The writer is informed that during the Civil War it was used as a factory for Army Shoes and was destroyed by fire, but to all appearance it is the same as that in which Mr. Luzerne Hubbell was Postmaster more than sixty years ago. In this connection let us notice the appearance of a post office at that time. There were, as now, some private boxes, but for general delivery strips of leather tacked in diamond form with brass head tacks upon hinged doors behind a glass front held the letters so that the superscription might be in plain view from the lobby and each one might decide for themselves whether there was a letter for them. Papers of the weekly issue were inquired for on the day they might be expected. The letters were not enclosed in an envelope, but neatly folded, the ends tucked and fastened by either an adhesive wafer or with sealing wax, sometimes with the senders' private seal impressed upon the wax. The postage might be prepaid or not, as the sender elected, and no postage stamps were then in vogue. When the elder Mr. Brotherton was Postmaster, possibly on the second term, the old rack was relegated to the past and the present system adopted. Just when stamps were first used the writer does not recall, but at the outbreak of the Civil War specie payments were suspended and stamps, which were then in use, passed current in place of coin, which on account of the gum soon became a solid mass in the small envelopes in which they were placed, and they were accepted on faith that the amount was as represented. From this beginning the Treasury Department soon began to issue a postal or fractional currency of larger dimensions and minus the gum.

Mr. Merwin's house is yet in evidence. The house, for many years the residence of Mr. Timothy Baldwin, was at one time a hotel or tavern kept by Captain Stephen Trowbridge, a retired sea captain, but about sixty years ago was the home of Mr. Joseph Merwin, who soon after removed to Brooklyn, N. Y. Outside the walk on Broad Street stood two large button-ball trees. The green was about this time enclosed in a two-rail fence, which after many years of service was removed.

The Miles house next was about that time occupied by a family named La Forge, one of whom, a young lady, suicided there. It was occupied later by an ex-missionary named Minor, and soon after became the property of Mr. George Cornwall, brother of Thomas, and whose wife was sister to Mr. Nathan A. Baldwin. After his removal to Brooklyn, N. Y., it passed to its present owners.

Where now stands the rectory of the R. C. Church, stood a brick dwelling in which lived Mrs. Adolphus Baldwin, then a widow and the mother of several sons and daughters, one of whom, Mr. N. A. Baldwin, was for many years a great benefactor to the Town, giving employment to hundreds of people and distributing a large amount of revenue in the form of wages. The house, though not of large proportions, was always well kept, and with its plate glass windows and neat and tidy appearance, was not an unworthy predecessor of the present more modern structure.

As we have already mentioned the houses on both sides of Wharf Street corners, we will first note the store on one corner and the old cannon set in the ground at the other, which cannon was the speaker on public occasions for many years, and pass to the residence of Messrs. George and Mark Tibbals, who each occupied a part. Mr. George Tibbals will be very favorably remembered by those who in their youthful days enjoyed the sight of the large canvas upon which was a fine life-size painting of Washington on horseback and his troops in the act of crossing the Delaware. This was displayed on the 22nd of February each year by Mr. Tibbals, and illuminated at night, until it became too worn to continue its use. Mr. Mark Tibbals was an enthusiastic fireman and drummer, and gave much time and attention to the public weal along these lines. Where now stands the residence of Mr. Owen Clark it is said once stood an old house that was removed before the time of which

we are now treating. More than sixty years ago there was neither house nor street between the grounds of the Messrs. Tibbals and those of Mr. Nathan Burns, who at that time lived in the house now the residence of Mrs. G. W. Tibbals. The building, which is now Mrs. Clark's residence, was first erected about where Center Street opens at Broad, and was first used as a Daguerreotype gallery. Mr. George Plumb, lately deceased, was associated with Mr. Hart Rogers of Orange, in this venture, but from some cause the business was removed to New Haven and Mr. Rogers became associated with a Mr. Hopper in the jewelry business in the store of Mr. Adolphus Baldwin, which then stood about where the Masonic building now is. The building was destroyed by fire and the business was abandoned.

When Center Street was opened, which was later than fifty years ago, the building was removed to where it now stands, and enlarged and converted into a dwelling and millinery store and was managed by Mrs. Isaac Green, with the blocking and pressing and bleaching done by Mr. Green on the premises. Mrs. Green, born Miss Mills, came to Milford in her younger days as a straw hat maker, when Flagg and Baldwin began the manufacture of those goods, and it was she who taught the beginners in their factory.

The house of Mrs. G. W. Tibbals has had a portico put on the front, and perhaps other minor changes, but it presents much the same appearance now as then.

A story and a half house of the common type of early days stood where now is the building formerly occupied as The Milford Savings Bank offices, but about fifty years ago the former residents having vacated, it was to have been occupied by parties "persona non-grata" to the neighbors. The building was badly shattered by parties unknown while the neighbors were supposed to be soundly sleeping, and was never used again.

The Langridge store next was a veritable Dickens production, as was also the proprietor, Mr. Levi Langridge. The frame of the building is embodied in the structure as rebuilt by Mr. Isaac Stowe, who came here from Hartford. The old store was a dark red building with a hooded gable overhanging the front stoop and forming a shelter thereto. Inside were wares of many kinds such as are now kept in a department store, but were then the stock of an old-fashioned country store.

Mr. Langridge was a kind-hearted and thoroughly honest merchant, and was very accommodating. As the writer knew him, he was partially blind, and it was amusing to the children to see him try the edge of a coin with his finger nail to discover the denomination. The pennies at that time were about the same size as the quarter dollars, and the nurl on the edge or the absence of it gave him the clue. The writer never remembers an unkind word spoken by or of him. He wore, as did nearly all elderly gentlemen of that time, a high silk hat on all occasions when appearing in public. High hats and semi-military coats with gilt buttons or the regulation swallow-tail were commonly worn by those who made any pretension to dress among the gentry. Silk velvet vests and embroidered shirt fronts had not given way to the more plain and formal starched monstrosities of today. Beau Brummel, it is true, had introduced the stiff collar, for which the writer presumes he is still doing penance, but the separate collar was yet to come. Mr. Langridge's house was that which is now standing in the rear of the Methodist parsonage. It then stood where is now the Methodist Church. A high close board fence separated the sidewalk from a little yelping cur that saluted every passer, while at front of the house, an ornamental picket fence allowed a view of the thick shrubbery and flowers that filled the front yard.

CHAPTER III.

The Governor Law place was that which having been almost entirely rebuilt, was recently occupied by Commodore Askam. This was not the original Law property, as that from its description was where now is a part of the Central School grounds. Sixty years ago it was as then occupied by the Law family, and an elderly lady bearing the name and a relict of the old family, was still an occupant of a part of the house, though most of it was given up to Mr. William Kelsey and family. Mr. Kelsey was one of four brothers who were the village blacksmiths at that time, and an honest, staunch though unassuming company of Christian gentlemen they were. Mr. William Kelsey in company with Mr. Gilbert Nettleton while out on some business in connection with the Plymouth Church, were struck by a locomotive while crossing the tracks and both were instantly killed. Mrs. James S. Tibbals, a niece of Mr. Kelsey, is the only remaining member of the family in Milford at this time. Capt. Samuel Stowe, father of Theodore, and grandfather of Mrs. Fred Cornwall, lived in a small two-story house where now is the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Osborne. "Capt. Sam" was one of a number of sea captains who had retired from a seafaring life and settled down to enjoy the fruits of their earlier struggles with the elements. He was of short stature with plenty of avoirdupois and smooth shaven ruddy face. His occupation in the evening of life was as assistant to Mr. Jason Bristol in his store.

Joseph Smith, with his widowed mother and a weak-minded maiden lady named Polly Keith, lived in an old type story and half house on the corner of Camp Lane (now Lafayette Avenue). He was a farmer who, too parsimonious to employ help, always had an uphill struggle with poverty, and his antagonist always appeared to be in the lead. His cattle looked as if they never expected to get another coat of hair, and held on to the old one far beyond its usefulness. His fences were dilapidated and everything showed that the

battle was an unequal one. He then owned all the property on the east side of Camp Lane as far as the rear line of the Green Street lots and on both sides of what is now Central Avenue as far as the rear of the lots on Center Street, west side. Central Avenue was not open at that time and all was an open field. His barn stood about where now is the residence of Mrs. Susan Mallory, who in the latter part of Mr. Smith's life lived with and cared for the family in their old age. Mr. Smith withal was not a bad or troublesome neighbor, but could never keep up with his duties, and being weary and dispirited, fell an easy prey to the wiles of the youth looking for amusement, and yet he suffered mostly in silence, seldom making trouble for any. Camp Lane was then a kind of deserted back road, the only house between Broad and Green Streets being the old Camp dwelling, in which in one room were domiciled two sisters, Amy and Hetty Camp. Amy tried to draw a precarious existence from the neighbors who were kindly disposed, and Hetty acted as a kind of decoy, never appearing in public and always expected to be suffering in bed when seen by any from the outer world who chanced to visit their room. The street had a neglected appearance, and where now is the corner of Central Avenue was a water course, bridged over in the roadway, with ditches on either hand, in which the fiery nettles made a thriving growth. The old Camp house, in its day a rather pretentious one, stood with its front facing Broad Street, two stories in front and sloping to one in the rear, the gable end on the street line. The house erected by Mr. Treat Camp now occupies the former site of the old one.

A small house in which lived Mr. Ralph Burns, now owned by Mrs. Somers, on the west side, and the small one on the east side now owned by Mrs. Brown, then the residence of Mr. Nicholas Penfold, complete the number of houses on that street, which then came to a dead end about where it now dies out into Rogers Avenue.

Returning to Broad Street, Mr. Jonas Bristol demolished an old building which the writer does not recollect, and erected in its place what is now the home of Mrs. Willis Oviatt, in which Mr. Bristol lived and his widow after him until her death a few years since. He also put up and ran for many years a grocery store on the corner of his property at Broad and La-

fayette Streets. He had a barn about where is now the residence of Mrs. Hine. His property extended down Lafayette Street to the Camp property line and was then protected on the street side by a neat stone wall, besides which he finally graded and laid out a sidewalk.

The house of Thaddeus Baldwin, a kinsman of Freelove Baldwin, is yet standing and in appearance is not greatly changed. The barn stood perhaps a hundred feet west of the house, its gable end on the street line. The fine old elm has been spared, and let us hope it may be for many years to come.

Passing Tory Brook and crossing the roadway to Seaside Avenue we come to the former site of a district school house which served to instill into the minds of the youth of that district through the efforts of the teachers there employed, the rudiments of a course in English. Following Seaside Avenue we come to the house of Mrs. Hepburn, which was built by Mr. Frederick Clemons, one of the few foreign-born residents of the Town at that time. He came from Holland in 1836, the same year that Mr. John Lines came from Ireland. Patrick Flynn, who for many years and up to the time of his death was in the employ of Mr. Charles H. Pond, who lived where now lives Mr. Lauren Wilcox; Mr. Maurice Royden, the progenitor of that family in Milford; and Mr. Franklin, the father of Miss Ella Franklin, completed the list of foreign-born residents in Town at that time. All except "Patrick Pond," as he was called, married here and their families are among our thriving citizens.

On the west side of Seaside Avenue as we approach the rise in the road, stood a large two-story house in which lived Mr. Mark Wilcox, the grandfather of the Wilcox "boys" who have lately returned to Milford to settle after years of battling in the struggle for merited rest. No other houses then stood upon the land adjoining that street until we return to the houses of Mr. Elias Tibbals and his brother Joseph, facing Tory Park. Both are practically the same as they then were. The house now known as the Pond Place and said to have been the first erected outside of the Palisade, was then the home of Mr. Jason Clark and family, who were descendants of the original owners. Mrs. Jonathan Clark, the mother of Jason, was then a member of the family. Mr. Clark and family were among those who sought to improve their fortunes in the West,

and it is presumed that some of them are yet living in their adopted home. Mrs. Clark was a daughter of Capt. Samuel Stowe and sister of Theodore, lately deceased. The barn belonging to the place is yet standing. On the opposite side of the street there has been neither a new house erected nor have any been removed, the only radical change noticed is a new form of roof on the house formerly owned by Mr. William Tibbals, familiarly known as "Cooper Bill," in distinction from "Uncle Bill," who then occupied an old-time house where now stands the residence of his grandson, Roger Smith. The house of Cooper Bill was built with a flat roof, but now has a gable roof. It is now the residence of Mrs. Thomas. The house next above on the same side of the street was until 1849 the home of Mr. Samuel Tibbals, who in that year became one of the party who on the ship Isaac Bell made a voyage around Cape Horn to the Golden Gate in search of the glittering fortunes which attracted a number of our citizens. Mr. Tibbals was of the number of those who never returned. His brother Charles not only never returned, but he lived only long enough to see the land of promise without ever having put foot upon it, as his death occurred just as they were entering the harbor to complete the voyage. He was the father of Mr. Albert C. Tibbals, who is the sole survivor of that family. An old house stood between the short street, which we believe to be called Osborne Street, and Tory Brook, and on the same plot was a small shop and tannery. These were the home and places of business of Mr. Abram Burns, who with his family soon after joined in the stream that was flowing westward, and the house became the home of Mr. Dennis Bristol, father of the late George Bristol. It has since been demolished, as has also the house of Mr. Charles Tibbals on the same plot but facing Golden Hill Street. This latter house was set low in relation to the street level, and being but one story in front and partially hidden in shrubbery, was a typical "Cottage Under the Hill." Here the widowed mother reared her two sons, George W. and Albert C. Tibbals, and spent the remaining years of her life. The house of George Osborne, now the house of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beecher, is not greatly changed in outward appearance. The houses on Golden Hill Street, with few exceptions, remain about as they were. We have already noted the change in the property of Mr. Roger Smith. The

old type of house, formerly the home of Mareus Baldwin and family, has been demolished and that of Mr. Joseph Davidson, now the residence of Mr. Camille Mazeau, has been entirely remodelled. It was formerly a story and a half house of the common type of early days. At the apex of the gore on the same plot was a small frame structure in which lived an old colored couple. Old Sybel, a kindly woman with the appearance of the Southern "Mammy", might often have been seen in the doorway ready to extend a kindly greeting to passersby. West Town Street, now lying between the residence of Mr. Robert Clark and Mr. Gunn, formerly crossed the railroad tracks at grade, where the old projections yet remain though bisected by the railroad. Just north of the tracks and facing the street on its westerly side was, almost hidden in shrubbery and flowers, the home of Captain and Mrs. Augustus Kelsey, one of the four blacksmith brothers. The Captain was, though a quaint character, a general favorite with all who knew him. He could shape an iron, temper steel, sail a boat successfully, catch fish and pass a quaint remark with never a thought of malice toward any. He had a method of profanity entirely original and entirely devoid of blasphemy. Mrs. Kelsey had a penchant for procuring novelties in flowers and shrubs, and a fine display was made throughout the place. The old Ell Baldwin house stood near the railroad opposite the present fine residence of Mr. George Gunn, and it is said that from the steps of this house Whitfield once preached. It was at one time the residence of Stephen, one of the sons of Capt. Stephen and Freelove Baldwin Stowe, who in Revolutionary days was a midshipman in the navy. At the time of which we treat it was the home of the Widow Mary (Stowe) Baldwin, and some members of her family. The old brass knocker from the front door now adds to the historical value of the Memorial Bridge. No house has arisen from the old site, and it is now a part of the farm land. The house of Mr. Samuel Gunn is the same now occupied by his well known son, Ex-Senator George M. Gunn. The general form of the building has been preserved, though it is at present more ornate than when new. The common in front has by the munificence of the present owner been transformed from a barren waste into a beauty spot and adds much to the civic features of our Town. The home of Mr. Charles Tomlinson has lost nothing of its always

neat appearance, from the time of its erection by his father, Mr. Nathan Tomlinson. The small old type of house in the same enclosure was once the home of the Baldwin family of which Mr. Roger S. Baldwin is a member, and Mr. and Mrs. William Brotherton lived there before he established himself on Union Street, where his son and namesake now resides.

CHAPTER IV.

About where now is Dr. Putney's residence stood the large old-fashioned house of the Widow Abby Arnold. She was also connected with the Baldwin family just mentioned, and her husband was connected with the Law and Arnold families, of which Benedict Arnold was, before his fall, an honored scion. The small house now owned by the estate of Jabez Smith was a rebuilt one and first occupied by Luke Bristol, whose wife was a daughter of Mr. Levi Langridge. Mr. Bristol was one of ten sisters and brothers, children of Mr. Nehemiah Bristol, of whom Dea. Smith Bristol was another. Mr. Thaddeus Smith, Mr. David Smith, his brother, Mr. William Brooks, and their families have occupied the same houses in which they now reside for more than sixty years, and while the houses have undergone some changes, the general effect is not radically different. Where now stands the home of Mr. Harry Clark there stood the store of Mr. Charles Baldwin, the father of Roger. The building stood near the street and had the old-time shutters at the windows, the lower part made to drop on its hinges, while the upper half was raised to form an awning. Mr. B's dwelling stood where now is the residence of Mr. Simon Lake. The property was purchased and the present building erected by Mr. John W. Fowler, a New York business man, who was returning to his native place to enjoy the early scenes of his childhood. He afterwards retired from business and for many years was a respected resident and official of our Town, where some of his children still reside.

Mr. Charles Hobby Pond, a gentleman in poor health, lived where now Mr. Lauren Wilcox has established his home. Mr. Pond was a man of good taste, his grounds were always an ornament to that section of the Town. They were enclosed in a high fence with large encased posts surmounted with urns, and within was just the tasteful display of flower and shrub that lends a charm to the well kept lawn, and paved walks in view, a peacock proudly strutted about as if in de-

fiance of any landscape vieing in beauty with his own. Governor Pond on the other corner of High Street occupied a large old-fashioned house which stood where Mr. Will Woodruff has since erected a dwelling, part of the old cellar wall having been taken out while excavating for the new. The front door was of the pattern that opened at the top, and when desired leaving the lower part closed, thus giving air without admitting of ingress or egress too freely. The family of Pond in Milford has always been a prominent one, and much has been accomplished in civic improvement through their efforts. The Governor's Homestead property covered all the ground from High Street to the store of Adolphus Baldwin, where now is the Masonic Building and back to the line of Dr. Allen's fence. The old tavern kept by Mr. Nathan Merwin, then with its buildings and accessories occupied all the space from the Governor Pond place to that of Mr. Calvin Durand and back to about where now is the line of highway near the railroad. The house proper was a two-story structure, later raised to three story with an arbor over the sidewalk, upon which spread the branches of thrifty grape vines, beneath which on pleasant days gathered a coterie of elderly men to discuss old times and current topics, as well as to tell over and again of the great catches of fish and the wonderful feats of horseflesh. The Higgins Club then occupied a part of the second story of the Tavern.

A small meat market occupied the space in front of the sheds between which and the house ran an alley leading to the barns in the rear, a footpath was made through the potato patch the better to reach the railroad station, after the trains began their regular runs. Mr. Durand's house, now occupied by his son, Cecil, remains much as when he occupied it. His grounds extended to the corner of River Street and back to and perhaps including the property then occupied by "Capt. Dick" Hepburn, the uncle of Mrs. E. P. Smith and the father of Mrs. O'Connor of Gulf Street. This was originally the homestead property of Alexander Bryan. Capt. Dick was another of the elderly retired mariners who "hauled out on the ways" to keep out of the way of barnacles and borers in the port from which in their early days they began their first voyage. Mr. John W. Fowler once published a list of about eighty who had for many years ploughed the fitful wave, finally

to reach a haven in our quiet Town. Capt. Dick's house stood where now runs the roadway to the east bound station of the railroad. It was an unpretentious house of two stories with a shading grape arbor at the south side, and after the railroad was double tracked, a stone wall at the embankment. When the railroad was projected a house in which lived Mr. Horace Mallett stood directly in the path and was purchased and removed to about where the livery stables now are near the station. The house was finally destroyed by fire. All the ground from the corner of River Street and New Haven Avenue to the railroad and Wepowaug on both sides of Daniel Street, except that occupied by the old Town House, part of which is now under the railroad bed, and that where now stands the lunch car near the bridge was in possession of the Davidson family, of whom Mr. Richard Treat Davidson was the oldest living representative. Perhaps may be omitted from this the ground whereon was erected the Methodist Church building now embodied in the business block and owned by Mr. George J. Smith. The writer is informed that there once stood a residence there that was the home of Mr. Thomas Gordon, a son-in-law of Mr. Samuel Burns. On the corner where now is the store of Mr. William Clark stood the house of Mr. Charles Davidson, father of Henry, now living on High Street. The house was moved and is yet standing on the corner of Daniel Street near the Memorial Bridge, and is the residence of Mr. Frank Burns. On a retaining wall next south of the M. E. Church was a small two-story house of Richard Treat Davidson, whose wife was a granddaughter of Stephen and Freelove Baldwin Stowe, and they were the parents of the others who then lived in that section. Luke Davidson occupied the small building yet standing at the corner of Daniel and River Streets that was once since used as the Post Office, and has been used for a variety of purposes since, and is now used as a shoe repairing shop. Mr. Samuel Davidson lived on the other side of Daniel Street near the river, in a gambrel roofed house that was to end its days as a dispensary of wet goods by Mr. Frank Dawson, its late owner. It was wiped out by fire some years ago. All of the Davidson family removed, in time, to more commodious quarters, and all of that generation are now dead. Passing the railroad, the old Kelsey homestead is yet standing, but the grounds are greatly changed. The whole grounds were im-

proved and planted with an orchard and a great variety of flowers and shrubs, and the walk from the street to the house lay between rows of boxwood hedge. A smithy stood back from the street near the northerly line, and a driveway was open from near the railroad bridge in about a direct line to near where now is Mr. Darius Whitcomb's shop. The first district schoolhouse then stood where now stands the P. E. Rectory. An old willow tree stood at the left of the schoolhouse and near the street. There was also a large willow at the corner of Daniel Street outside of the sidewalk. The brook that was then an open watercourse across the common and entered the Wepowaug just north of the P. E. Church was a favorite place for watering horses, and they were driven past the blacksmith's shop and schoolhouse and church and through the brook and then up the alley to the street. The brook was bridged at both roadways and sidewalks. The P. E. Church was a frame building painted in imitation of brownstone and sanded, and about this time was taken away and the present edifice erected. The grounds claimed by the society were enclosed within a railing and all traffic closed over the grounds. The schoolhouse was removed and it is believed all dispute is settled to the satisfaction of all. Mr. William Weeks conducted the tinsmith business on or near the same site that it has been continued first by Mr. Samuel Gunn and since by Messrs. Theron and Merritt Ford. Mr. Weeks sold out his house and barn and the land on which they stood to Mr. Rogers Ford, who transformed the barn into a smithy and made the house a residence for his family. The house is yet standing but hidden from view by the buildings on the street. There had at one time been a small horseshoeing shop near the river and bridge, but was abandoned at the time of which we treat. The Municipal Building is a reconstructed building, the nucleus of which was the unused building of the Baptist Society. The Town Hall, a like structure, was brought into line and the space between filled, and the graceful structure as we see it resulted. Dickinson Mill on the one side, and Davidson Mill on the other of the milldam, like Fowler's Mill below, were not unsightly and proved very useful to the townspeople. They had the appearance of a two-story building and were painted white and were of fair proportions. Fowler's Mill had in connection with its flour mill, a sawmill, where

were usually to be found a quantity of logs to be made into lumber. From the railroad north to the old Town Hall the land had not been fully reclaimed from its former state as "little dreadful swamp," and though a ditch followed on either side of the roadway, at times the roads were almost impassable. But patience and perseverence seem to have conquered. Mr. Charles Smith, brother of Dea. John, Thaddeus and David, then owned and lived in the present home of Mr. Edward Reichel, which house, like that of Ralph Chidney, has met with little change. Capt. William Glenney, another of the old-time mariners, owned and then occupied a large old type of house which he sold to Mr. Harvey Beach, who demolished the house and erected that now the residence of Mr. J. D. Brown. Mr. Beach spent the latter part of his life here with Mrs. Beach and the daughter, Josephine, who is yet a resident. Between the residence of Mr. Beach and that of Dr. Brace stood a small dwelling that was removed to High Street and fitted up as the home of Mr. Michael O'Brien, and has but recently passed out of the hands of that family. Before removal it had been occupied by a family named Barton. Near this house stood a large gambrel roofed building that was moved to Cherry Street and stood near where now is the residence of Mrs. Dr. Heady, and after removal was at one time the tinshop of Mr. John P. Downs. The Dr. Brace place is said to have been at one time a hotel kept by a Mr. Buddington, and in seeking to bring to his door some of the travel from New Haven planted a row of elms on either side of a direct line from the Jefferson Bridge to his house. Standing in front of that house it may be noted that a few of those trees are left yet. The house itself has not greatly changed in appearance.

CHAPTER V.

The history of the plot upon which now stand the First Congregational Parsonage and the residence of Mr. G. Frank Smith seems a little clouded. About sixty years ago there were the remains of an old cellar about which had grown a group of cherry trees, and the indications are that here once stood a house upon which Capt. Samuel Eells obtained from Mr. Alexander Bryan a mortgage by the records, and in a description of the property it is bounded on property of Jonathan Law. Sixty years ago there were no buildings upon it. As we come to the school grounds on the extreme corner next the street stood a small house then owned by Capt. Mark Stowe and let by him as a tenement. Whether it was this house or its predecessor that for a time sheltered the Regicides, the site is the same. This house and Mr. Stowe's own residence and that of the Rev. Asa M. Train were removed to make way for the central school. The Train House, as it was known, was erected by Mr. Isaac Mills for his daughter when she became the wife of the Rev. Samuel Wales. The house now occupied by Dr. Cairoli and family was formerly the residence of Dr. Lucius Beardsley, and except the change from a flat to a gable roof, remains much the same. On this plot at one time stood the residence of the Rev. Roger Newton of the First Congregational Church. He was a learned man and taught many young aspirants for the ministry. His grandson and namesake, Col. Roger Newton, was quite prominent in both military and civil office in Colonial days.

The residence of Mr. Amos Ford and that of his granddaughter and family was once a hotel, and the well-known story of Washington's visit there needs no repetition.

The house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Noyes was the home of Mr. Henry Pinneo, who rebuilt the house that was his father's. Mr. Henry was a son of the Rev. Bezaliel Pinneo, who for many years was pastor of the First Congregational Church. The president edifice of the First Congrega-

tional Church is the third since organization, and was built by Michael Peck in 1823. It was at first seventy feet in length, but in the late "sixties" was enlarged to its present dimensions.

On the ground where now stands the Plymouth Church Parsonage stood an old type story and half house usually occupied by the miller who at the time of which we are writing was Mr. Platt, not a native of the town, but as it would seem to the writer, a connection of the Waterbury family of that name.

Mr. Samuel Higby's place remains about as it was, except for the removal of a barn from the easterly line on Gregory's Hill.

Where now stands the house of Mr. Hart Sperry, which house was built by Mr. Lemuel Powell, formerly stood the low, brown house of Mr. David Stowe.

The houses of Messrs. Charles and Thomas Cornwall and the shop of Thomas were then standing as now, except that the shop has been converted into a dwelling.

The house near Memorial Bridge, then the home of Mr. Joseph Fowler, is standing about the same. Where is now that unique structure which is the pride of so many of our townspeople, then was a rather dilapidated wooden affair that served for the traffic which mostly ended at the Mill or the "Graveyard". New Haven Avenue was not yet projected. The flour and sawmills have been mentioned and the old shipyard had been abandoned for that purpose, but was used to some extent by the brothers Eli and Asa Green for the building of small boats and by some parties for tarring them. It was a favorite place for the boys to bathe and the rays of the sun furnished a satisfactory bathing-suit. There were two small gardens enclosed between the roadway and water, one used perhaps by Mr. Harpin Fowler, and the other by Mr. Samuel Peck. On a small triangle with a roadway each side of it, and facing the old roadway that still runs to and along the railroad and between the flour mill and Mr. Harpin Fowler's place, stood a yellow building that was for the most part unused for any purpose at the time of which we write, but later was used as a tinware and stove store for a short time. When New Haven Avenue was opened the building was removed and the roadway covers the space it occupied.

Perhaps the small house on the bank of the old Milltail may represent what yet remains of the building itself, as that house was not there at that time.

The houses of the Green brothers, Samuel Peck and Harpin Fowler are yet standing, but the grounds of Mr. Fowler were encroached upon to make way for the opening of New Haven Avenue, which encroachment was hotly contested by Mr. John W. Fowler, whose ancestral precincts it invaded, but as now, perhaps, the sentiment that then prevailed in relation to the place has no such ardent an apostle. A further encroachment that would eliminate a very menacing turn from that much used thoroughfare might be advisable.

The small house on the corner opposite the Fowler Place presents about the same appearance, though between that and the railroad was mostly covered by a pond. The old-fashioned house that stood with its front right on the street line and farther along near the railroad the home of the sister and brother, Hetty and William Fowler, completed the residences on that gore. No other house was then standing between Prospect Street and Gulf Street south of the railroad until we come to the house later occupied by Capt. William Glenney, the same that is now standing near the entrance to Dr. Walker's grounds and a part of his buildings. Nearly opposite the Coggeshall place, which is yet standing on the east side of Gulf Street, then stood the former home of Mr. Elias Smith, but sixty years ago was occupied by Mr. Samuel Parsons and family, of which Mrs. George Mallett was a member. A sister of hers became the wife of the Rev. N. T. Merwin of this town.

Where now is the fine residence of Judge William Stoddard then stood a house of near like dimensions owned by Mr. Nathan Whiting, from whom the father of Judge Stoddard purchased the property which included the old Gulf Mill, then standing on a causeway near the bridge, and a small house near the Gulf Wharf at the end of the lane now used by the Oyster Co. The small house is yet in evidence, though the Mill has long since ceased to be a landmark. No jetty was then there, but water gates just above the bridge which opened with the flood and closed with the ebb tide, gave a reserve of water to drive the mill when the outer tide should create a current through the mill flume by attaining a lower level. The Mill itself far surpassed any in our town and was used for various

purposes besides the grinding of grain. Perhaps just before Mr. Stoddard purchased it was the time in which no grain was ground there. Mr. David Somers was for a time the miller, and later Mr. David Plumb, Mr. George Ringsley, Mr. Newton and others. The building was a large square structure with high gable roof and the windows were irregularly placed where the light might be needed without regard to symmetry of lines. It was walled up from the ground and stood over the water with a large undershot waterwheel at the southerly side. A white shell road in front of the massive red building fronting a glassy pond of pure, clear salt water, made a picture that might well have been preserved, including the bridge and water-gates. No buildings were then on the opposite side of the roadway, but from the evidence of an old cellar just at the corner of the upland of the Stoddard grounds it would appear that earlier there had been one there. The Gulf Wharf was little used at this time, but vessels at times discharged cargoes, perhaps of the raw material for the mill and the return cargo of the ground product. The remains of an old vessel or scow rested on the northerly side of the wharf, a relic of the past. Passing along the shore beyond the bridge to where now begin the grounds of Mr. Clark Wilcox, upon the crest of the bank stood a small shack used as a shelter for the fishermen who then worked a large net that, upon large reels beneath the shelter of sheds, together with the boats and other paraphernalia, rested quietly near the water's edge when not in use. While the special mission of the plant was to furnish fertilizers for the use of the farmers of the town, many edible fish were often brought in with the menhaden, and lucky was the small boy who happened near, as no restraint was put upon him in taking a supply. The roadway on top of the bank has since become a feature of travel in that direction, the only way of reaching "Welch's Lane" before having been by way of the beach when the tide permitted, or across private property. It is said that the land was purchased and donated to the town for a road by Mr. Elisha Flagg, of Flagg & Baldwin. Three brothers of that family were at some time connected with the straw hat business here, familiarly known as Lishe, Marsh and George Flagg. Mr. John Welch, one of the last descendants of Thomas Welch, being the family name, who purchased the land from Old Chief Ansantawae when the

Chief finally disposed of his last holdings in Town, then lived in what was probably the original home of the family, then on the southerly side of the street at the top of the grade from the waterfront. The homestead grounds of Thomas Welch were on North Street. A few rods on and on the opposite side of the street stood, and yet stands with little change in outward appearance, the home of Mr. William Gillette and family. Mr. Gillette is a descendant of Thomas Welch. No other building then stood on that street until the Pond Point highway was reached.

Returning to the roadway from Fowler's Mill, all the houses have been noticed until Gulf Street is met with. Near the railroad and on the north side of it somewhat back from Gulf Street and near the swamp, stood the white schoolhouse for that district, embracing all that territory laying south of the center of Cherry Street between the Wepowaug and Indian Rivers and Long Island Sound. From the railroad south on the east side of Gulf Street stood the small house of Horace Brown, father of Samuel Brown, lately deceased, and the house is yet standing but shows the ravages of time. Where now is the house of Mr. Holloway, which house was built for Mr. William Pond, then stood an old-fashioned house then occupied by Mrs. Betsy Treat. It was demolished when Mr. Pond took possession. The house of Mr. John Connor and those of Anthony Stowe, Henry Miles and William Coggeshall were among the older residences, and that of Mr. David Miles, of more modern construction, were all standing sixty or more years ago. Mr. William Merwin owned and occupied the house now occupied by his granddaughter, and in a small weather-beaten house that stood on the same plot facing the lane, lived another of the retired mariners, Capt. Stephen Trowbridge, who before had managed the hostelry on Broad Street, already mentioned. Where now is the fine residence of Mr. Merritt Merwin, then stood that of his grandfather, Merritt Merwin.

Passing the Mill Bridge and Causeway, we come to Old Field Lane and find the residence of Mr. Marcus Merwin, whose son and grandson now reside there. The house appears the same now as then. Here on the opposite side of the street may be seen the well with its old-time wellsweep, and nearby a large stone with a hollow in its upper surface, said to have

been used by the Indians for pounding their corn. Many evidences are found in this vicinity of the extended use of this section by the Indians as a resort for fishing and hunting. Arrow-heads continue to be found, clam and oyster shells are ploughed up, and much that indicates that it was a favored spot. Farther along, the old Buckingham place, now the property of Mr. George Wilcox, was then the home of Mr. Daniel Buckingham, and the house stands upon the site of an old Indian burial place, while it is believed that the lane either dedicated or projected, runs through to the Pond Point Road near which it was called Mud Lane. No definite boundary now exists, and certainly no habitation has been known along its path. Coming then to the Pond Point Road on the corner of the Woodmont was the residence of Mr. Carrington Merwin and family. The daughters were quite popular among the young people of their day and soon were taken to homes of their own, and the old people dying, the place while yet standing has fallen into decay. No other house is met with along that road until at the intersection of Welch's Lane we find the former residence of Mr. Miles Merwin, the father of Mrs. George Platt, now of Green Street. Farther on, on the opposite side of the street, is the small schoolhouse for that district Passing on to the settlement of Pond Point proper, the older residences are little changed, but the inroads of transient dwellers threaten to obliterate all the ancient landmarks. As the roadway from Mr. Miles Merwin's place to that of Mr. Nehemiah Clark's was and is uninhabited, it may be seen today as then.

CHAPTER VI.

From the corner at Mr. Carrington Merwin's following the Woodmont or Burwell's Farm road, the first house seen was and is that of Mr. Asabel Clark, which is yet held by some member of the family. We meet no other until arriving at the top of the hill. On the left hand side then stood the house that was at one time the residence of Mr. Samuel Eells, from whom is derived the name Eells' Hill. This family and the Burwells intermarried and both families were in Colonial times connected with the civil and military history of the Colony, the last of the family to occupy the house having been a soldier of the Revolution. About sixty years ago it was the residence of a man named Jones. Only the cellar now remains to mark the site.

At the foot of the hill we come to the beginning of the Burwell's Farms Settlement which may better be described by one better acquainted.

Following the old road from Indian River Bridge west near the railroad, we notice the house of Mr. Baldwin Fowler, which has since been moved across to New Haven Avenue and is now the residence of Mr. Hatfield. The house of Mr. Jonas Buckingham has recently been moved a short distance east but is not much changed. It is now occupied by Mr. Herman Roeder. The Charles Buckingham, John Buckingham and Ephraim Curtis houses that are yet standing, completed all the houses in that section south of the railroad. The old Dickinson house in which lived John Lines and family was one of the early houses within the palisades, and was a fair representation of the larger houses of the early settlement. It stood very near where is now the entrance to the ball grounds, a few rods north of the railroad facing the old road from the old Catholic Church building to Buckingham street, since closed. What is now the home of Mr. Charles Wilhelmi was then the residence of Mr. Harvey Eells and family. One son yet lives in Fair Haven. Until the advent of the Irish in our town in considerable numbers, no other house with the exception of

that of Capt. "Dick" Oviatt was on either side of that street.

Between Mr. Eells' and that of Mr. Platt's shop, which faced Gulf Street and stood on rear of the lot now owned and occupied by Mr. Albert Nettleton, Capt. "Dick's" house stood quite near the cemetery and was one of those recently demolished by the Cemetery Association in cleaning their grounds along Gulf Street. From the corners near Fowler's Mill and passing under the bridge on the easterly side of Prospect Street, we first find the house of Deacon Harvey Mallory, the same now owned by Mr. Edward Mallory, a grandson, and at the brow of the hill that of Mr. Nathan Fowler, the father of Mr. Mark Fowler, who is yet a resident of Milford. There has been but little change in the appearance of either.

The house of David L. Baldwin, Esq. (this is the site of Mr. Peter Prudden's house) that in which now lives his daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Nettleton, whose husband, Mr. Louis Nettleton, a veteran of the Civil War, did not long survive its close, Mr. Sydney Buckingham's place, since that of Mr. Henry Clark, and that of Mr. Galpin Higby, now the home of Mr. Harry Bryan, a grandson, remain much the same as in early days.

The house and store of Mr. Nathan Fenn, though yet standing, have been much enlarged and are now the same in which Mr. Gregory lives and conducts his business. Next on Cherry Street stood two houses of similar appearance in which lived the Ferris brothers, Louis and Shadrack. One of them is yet standing. Where now is the row farther along, then stood the carriage factory of the Ferris Brothers, in which they did a thriving business until it was destroyed by fire more than fifty years ago. The house in which Mrs. Morris now resides was that of Mr. William Smith, who went away from Milford more than sixty years ago, and it was afterwards occupied by Mr. William Durand, a well-known citizen of the town at that time.

The house of Mr. James Kilpatrick, like that of Mr. Smith on the one side and of Mr. Curtis Peck on the other, has preserved the same general appearance. Mr. Benjamin Sanford's place may have had additions, but the main building has retained its original form. Mr. Bela Bradley's place was that which is adjoining the entrance to the cemetery, but the house has been remodelled though no radical change in its size and

proportions is noted. Mr. John Sanford then occupied a moderate sized house between Mr. Bradley's and Mr. Elijah Baldwin's, which is presumed to be yet standing, but of which the writer has lost the identity. Mr. Baldwin's house was that in which now resides Mr. Nettleton and has preserved well its original form. Mr. Jonah Platt was then residing in the house now occupied by Mr. Albert Nettleton and family. Mrs. Nettleton was a member of the Manville family who purchased the property from Mr. Platt when he removed to Broad Street where he had purchased the property of Mrs. Miles Davidson. About 1852 a brother of Mrs. Nettleton's gave his life to the service of his country. George Manville, though young in years, had made many friends who mourned his early departure.

Where now stands the house erected by Mr. Samuel Blake stood a large old-fashioned house then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson. The children of that day now living may recall the startling vocabulary of Nancy Stephenson's poll parrot which attracted so many to its locality. Mr. George Ingersoll then owned the property where yet stands the large house first met with as we pass out on the old turnpike. The Ebenezer Downs place with its massive fence posts attracted attention from the passers-by. Perhaps the removal of the fence has been the principal change effected. A small house, then the residence of Mr. John Porter, and since that of Mr. Edward Mooney, and the Bartlett residence at the parting of the roads, completed the residences on that side of the turnpike within the town limits. The house of Mr. Elias Clark first met with on the lower road, and that of Capt. Isbell, now occupied by Mr. Carle, are little changed. The sawmill near the bridge was a typical structure of the ramshackle collection then constituting such plants. It has recently been destroyed by fire. The milldam and the bridge were a quaint reminder of utility versus display. Passing the bridge on the right hand near the water stood a medium sized house in which Mr. Theodore Pike lived with his family for a short time, and farther on at the left was the residence of Mr. Chauncey Isbell, since owned by the late John Guyer. Mr. John Lines not much later took up his residence farther down Old Gate Lane. Taking the left hand road after crossing the bridge at "the Quarry" on the left was an old type story and half house, the residence of Mr.

Abram Marks, and yet farther on, also on the left, a similar house, though painted white in distinction from that of Mr. Marks, which was red, where resided another of our few foreign-born residents, Mr. Franklin, the only remaining member of whose family in town is Miss Ella Franklin of Wharf Street. Perhaps a small house on farther, the residence of Mr. Pardee, was beyond the town limits, as certainly were the house and brick yard of Eliakim Fenn, yet farther on at the left of the road back to the turnpike coming west the house of Mr. Richard Platt, a small house since owned by Mr. Martin Hickey and the residence of Mr. Stephen Gunn, the home of the late John De Garmo and the house now standing on the point of land at the junction of Governor's Avenue and the turnpike in which lived a family named Hopper, complete the list in that part of the town, and each of which are yet in evidence. On the corner of Governor's Avenue and Cherry Street was the residence of Mr. Frederick Dayton, a foreman in the employ of the Ferris Brothers. The house was the late home of Mr. Elias Bradley, who with his wife met an untimely death in the trolley disaster at Peck's Mills, Stratford. The building has since been removed and now faces Governor's Avenue, and the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Van Vliet now occupies the former site. Mr. William Glenney's residence, later that of Mr. Andrew Clark, is yet standing, as is that of Mr. Samuel Green, now the residence of Mr. Gregory. The Anthony Bristol place was remodelled by Mr. John Strong, the father of Mrs. Caroli, and has now become the home of Mr. Almon Clark. Mr. William Bristol's house and that of Mr. Andrew French where live respectively Mr. William Clark and Mr. Emmons Chase, are not greatly changed. The old house of Stephen Somers was a square gable roofed house of dingy appearance, and was, very fortunately for the neighborhood, destroyed by fire, as the house and its occupants for the most part were undesirable acquisitions just preceding its destruction. "Squire" Strong's house, now the residence of Mr. D. Platt, has had no radical departure from its original design. The old Second Congregational building that stood near the line of the Miles homestead was used as a paint shop by the Beach brothers who had their main buildings near the river side where the bridge crosses from Governor's Avenue to Maple Street. On the south side of the roadway the blacksmith's shop was a single

story, rather long brick building, and opposite at the brink of the river with a flume beneath, stood a two-story frame building with an ell running eastward in which most of the work was done. A small story and half house stood just back from where the old well now is seen, in which lived at one time Mr. Michael Barney and his family. It must be remembered that about this time many families of Irish people became residents of the town, so that it may be confusing to say that there were almost no foreign-born residents here, and continue to mention such in various parts of the town. It was perhaps about 1850 that the railroad which had but recently begun to carry passengers through our town, found it necessary to add to its carrying capacity by double tracking. The famine in Ireland had driven many to seek relief in other lands, and many of the laborers employed by the contractors found a permanent home here, and from that beginning has grown a very fine representation of the Irish-American citizenship among us. Not all those who came about that time followed the majority on railroad, but obtained other employment and have made homes for themselves, as have their descendants, many of whom are among our most respected citizens.

Coming back to our subject, the old church building before mentioned had been so changed in the interior that the lower floor was perhaps more of a storehouse than a workshop, while a second floor had been put in and the painting of carriages was mostly done upon it, or rather in the story which it formed. The Miles place, which is believed originally to have been the residence of Mr. Isaac Miles, was about sixty years ago the home of Miss Diana Miles, one of his descendants. It was this Mr. Miles who had erected for his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Wales, the house that until recently stood on what are now the school grounds and known as the Train house. It had been the home of several clergymen in turn, besides the Rev. Mr. Wales. Mr. Lockwood in 1784 to 1796. Rev. Asa M. Train was the last of the clergymen who occupied the house, which he did for many years until his death. During the War of the Revolution in 1776 Mr. Wales served as chaplain in the army.

CHAPTER VII.

Again returning to North Street, a small building near the street at the northerly extremity of the Miles plot may some time have served as a store, but served as a dwelling for some of the people employed about the Miles place at the time of which we treat. The old house which has recently received much attention at the instance of the late Mr. Anson Downs, was the old home of Mr. Thomas Buckingham, and it was Mr. Downs' intention to preserve the exterior, at least, as near its original form and appearance as he might. The present home of Mrs. John W. Buckingham was that of her parents, and sixty years ago Mr. Louis F. Baldwin, her father, conducted a shoe store on the corner of the plot. In Colonial days it is said that Governor Robert Treat lived in a house that formerly stood on that plot. (It was the plot allotted to Mr. Edmund Tapp, Mrs. Treat's father) and Governor's Lane, now Governor's Avenue, took its name from that circumstance. Mr. Sheldon Burns lived in a medium sized smooth boarded house near the present residence of Mrs. James Higby that is perhaps yet standing. No other houses were on that side of the street. The houses of Mr. Lewis Welch, Mr. Henry Law and Mr. Lucius Porter may yet be seen. It is the opinion of the writer that a district schoolhouse at one time stood on the right of Governor's Avenue as one goes from Cherry Street, but he is not certain that his memory served him well in this respect. The houses in which lived Mr. James Mitchell and that of Mr. Clark Smith, and farther along that of Mr. James Burns, and finally that of the brothers Bailey, completed the number upon that street. Crossing the bridge to the residence of Deacon Marshall and opposite to that of Mr. Dennis Beach, and following south the home of Mr. Canfield and of Mrs. Josiah Buckingham, little change is noted. Where now is the residence of Mr. J. L. Miles then stood the large red house of Mr. Pond Strong. It was much such another as the one Mr. Downs has refurbished on North Street and Governor's Avenue, set well back from

the street and with little shrubbery in front and a blue stone paved walk to the old-fashioned entrance, it was indeed a reminder of the olden times. The building on the corner, now the residence of Mr. Samuel Smith, was then a combined store and dwelling, and whether then kept by Mr. Smith's father or Mr. William Platt, each of whom occupied the store at different times, the writer is at a loss to remember. However, except that it has had the store front changed, it is much the same in appearance. The bridge over the river, while of modern steel construction, is not startingly changed. The old seminary building, a square building with its pointed roof surmounted by a small bell tower, stood for many years on the rocky foundation beneath the shade of a large elm near the present residence of Mr. William Bush. Little change is noted on that side of the street, except the closing of the well-known store of Mr. Anon Clark and its new mission as a dispensary of the gospel. Where now is the residence of Mrs. E. P. Smith stood a story and half weather-beaten house almost hidden in front by cinnamon rose bushes, in which then lived Mr. William Peck, who later erected the house now occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Nathan Clark, on North Avenue. The house was originally that of Mr. Peacocke, from which Maple Street was at first called Peacock Lane. It was demolished when Mr. Harvey Minor came into possession and built the present house. Mr. Selah Strong lived in a large house on what is now the vacant lot next adjoining Mrs. Smith's place and now a part of her property. Mr. Samuel Beach then occupied the house on the corner in which now lives Mr. George Munson. Mr. Luke Mallett lived in the house now the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Fields, and his son Lewis, her father, lived in a smaller house on the same plot, which having been moved farther up the street was for a time occupied by Mr. David Durand and later became the property of Mr. D. L. Clarke. Mr. Luke Mallett was the proprietor of a meat market near the Tavern on Broad Street and had his abbatoir near his residence. Mr. Samuel Durand lived with his parents on the opposite of the street, where the widow and children continue to reside. The houses from that of Mr. D. N. Clarke can better be described by Mr. G. Frank Smith or D. L. Clarke than by me. Following down from Mr. D. N. Clarke's house towards High Street we find first the story and half house of Deacon Nettleton at the

corner of Peacock Lane and the barn farther down the said lane. The writer is of the opinion that both are now gone. Then followed two houses belonging to Mr. David C. Smith, the grandfather of Mr. George J. Smith, one of which about that time was occupied by Mr. Samuel Eells and the other by Mr. Smith and wife. The barn of Mr. Stephen Gunn stood away from the street but near Mr. Smith's line. Mr. Gunn's residence was that in which Mr. Harry Merwin now resides. The John Carrington place on the triangular plot has since been the home of Mr. Alphonzo Smith. The old type of house in which then lived Deacon John Benjamin completes the houses in that section. Following the road towards High Street which we cross and enter the way to Gunn Street, on the right hand was a two-story front house, and on the left an old house but of less elevation, the first that of Mr. Elisha Peck which he demolished when he built the one in which he spent his remaining days, now the residence of Mr. Proctor; the other that of Mr. Amos Baldwin which was taken down and none replaced it. From the First Congregational Church on West Main Street next to the house of Mr. Samuel Smith which has been mentioned, was the shoe shop of Mr. Leonard Davidson, in which was run the first sewing machine brought into Milford. The operator was Caroline McCoy, who later became the wife of Mr. William Bush. The residence of Mr. Howe Davidson and that of Mr. William Miles and Doctor Carrington's old homestead, are yet standing and give their own account of themselves. The schoolhouse that stood on the common at the turn of the road is a thing of the past, but having seen one of the district schoolhouses of that day will suffice for all. The "little red schoolhouse" usually mentioned in connection with the rural districts of New England will need to change its complexion in Milford, where only white ones were ever seen by the writer until the recent Central School building erection.

Colonel Stephen Ford's house occupies its old stand, and his son, James, a veteran of the Civil War, appears to have inherited the father's bent in that line, and still occupies the old house. The old house of Mr. Samuel Glenney, a story and half house, many years ago was supplanted by the one now standing. Mr. Dan Peck lived in a small house adjoining the ground of Mr. Pinneo, which is yet standing. From the lower

end of "New Broad," now High Street, Doctor Allen's place, minus a large barn that used to be a feature then, and the addition of an ell to the house, is not much different except that there was then no building on that side of the street to obstruct his view of Broad Street. In the house opposite, then a square house with a gabled roof with the eaves at front and back, had been living the family of Mr. Charles Platt, and it was here that Howard Platt first saw the light of day. Perhaps sixty years ago a family bearing the name of Weeks occupied it. When it became the home of Mr. Street, father of Mrs. Hutchinson, it was remodelled and took its present form. Mrs. Street was a daughter of Dr. Hull Allen and died when her daughter came, and the home was broken up. Mr. Horace Mallett had only recently built on High Street after selling out his former place to the railroad company, and the house in which Mr. William Mitchell now lives was nearly hidden in a forest of trees. It was then the home of Mr. Ralph Augur and family, of whom none now remain as residents of Milford, though Mr. William Augur, a grandson, loves to meet his old acquaintances here as opportunity offers. Where are now the grounds of Mr. James T. Patterson, was then a rather high knoll on which grew some hickory trees, and sloping towards the street ended in a bank several feet above the roadway. The bushes on the opposite side of the street were something of an obstacle to the boy seeking hickory nuts from a tree that grew a few feet away from the street. The ground being low was also wet, but by introducing a system of drainage it was reclaimed as meadow land as now seen. Mr. John Minor and Mr. Henry Merwin occupied the houses next above, where is now the entrance to Lauralton Hall, and the addition of a veranda to the house of Mr. Merwin is the greatest change to either. The house of Mr. Feehan (Mr. Thaddeus Nettleton's house) was occupied by some ladies, one of whom, if the writer is not mistaken, afterwards became the wife of Mr. William Brooks. The house is not much changed in outward appearance. The house of Mr. Wilson Plumb and that of Mr. Everett Smith are little changed. Crossing the street, the first house above that of Mr. Horace Mallett was that of Mrs. Fairchild, a widow, the same as has since been the home of Mr. William Davidson's family. Mr. David Ford's, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, and the former house of Mr. Luke Nettleton,

both now standing, and the shop and store of Mr. Samuel Glenney, now transformed into a dwelling, complete the list on that section of High Street. Crossing West Main Street on the corner of High on Mr. Charles Baldwin's plot stood a small store in which Mr. Baldwin sold groceries, and the second floor was used as a shoe shop. The residence was the same now occupied by his son, Mr. Charles W. Baldwin, another Civil War veteran, in which service this neighborhood was well represented. Sydney Plumb, Harvey and Henry Nettleton, Samuel and George Glenney, James Ford, Charles W. Baldwin, George Hine, Dennis Baldwin, George T. Peck, Charles Ford, Albert Plumb, all in that school district and near neighbors, having volunteered for the service. The Wheelers Farms district was also well represented by David Benjamin, Joseph R. Clark, Almon, Nathan and Samuel, his brothers, George Rogers, Hezekiah P. Smith, James and George Baird, and perhaps others from that district giving their services, of whom George Beard became a brigadier general and has within a few years been laid at rest in our cemetery.

Returning from this digression, we find on High Street on the left the house of Marcus Baldwin, yet standing, and on the opposite but a few rods below, an old type two story and gable house in which lived Mr. George Hine and family. The house was razed when Mr. Rodgers Hine erected the one now standing on its site. Just before we reach the common at the junction above on the left hand side was a medium-sized, weather-beaten house then occupied by Mr. Thomas Moore, a north of Ireland gardener, who was quite a popular representative of that art and a respected citizen of the town. The house has since been demolished. Mr. George Baldwin, a son of Mr. Amos Baldwin, before mentioned, built and occupied the house next above which faces the common at the junction of the two streets. On the continuation of High Street opposite the short connecting street before mentioned, was the house of Mr. Merritt Ford, father of General George H. Ford, in which Mr. Charles Smith has taken up his residence. It describes itself. The houses of Mr. James Benjamin and the little red shop below on the same side of the street, together with the barn above the house, and a tan barn beyond the brook, all represented the improvements of the elder Mr. Benjamin, father of James and several brothers, who was yet living sixty years

ago, though too aged for active labor. The houses of Mr. Luther Benjamin and Mr. Roger Hine, Joel Hine, Theophulus Miles and Nathan Gunn, all yet standing, completed the list in that direction until the Housatonic River was reached. On the road to Wheelers Farms the first house on the left was that of Mrs. Job Hine, and on the right that of her father, Mr. Lewis Munson. The former yet remains about the same, but the latter has given place to the recently erected house of Mrs. Helwig.

CHAPTER VIII.

Passing on we come to the house of Mr. William Benjamin, still the residence of some of the family. On the road from there across to the head of High Street was an old cellar where once stood a house in which once lived Mr. Levi Somers, and in which the mother of the writer was born more than one hundred years ago, in 1804. No other house is known to have ever stood on that street. Above the before-mentioned house of Mr. William Benjamin the writer will leave the description to those better informed. From High Street on West Main Street after passing the residence of Mr. Charles Baldwin, we find on the right hand first the house of Mr. David W. Smith, which is yet standing. Crossing Gunn Street, on the corner stood a two-story and gable roof house, the earliest tenant of which the writer is able to recall was Mr. Charles Munson. The house was taken down when Mr. Charles Hyatt built that in which he resides. Mr. Timothy Starr had a small house near the street on the property where now stand the houses of Charles Peterson and the heirs of Uncle Timothy. Mr. Charles Oviatt's house is yet standing as it then was. Mr. Clark Ford then lived where now is Mr. Frank Munson's residence, and ran a store on the same plot which was destroyed by fire. The writer is not certain whether the house is the same, but it is similar. Mr. Curtis Oviatt occupied an old house on the corner where his daughters later replaced it with a new one which is now standing. Passing the street that leads to Ford Town, we come to the old Joseph Peck homestead. Sixty years ago there was a plain two-story brick house with gabled roof on the plot in which lived the family of Capt. Cornelius Peck, a descendant of the original owner. The usual barns and outbuildings of a farmer's homestead stood near. At the top of the hill was an old frame house belonging to the same estate. A medium sized house next was perhaps that of George L. Clark, but since at one time was occupied by Thomas Lewis and family. Mr. Lewis Beers' house is yet

standing. The writer has a slight idea of the location of the other houses in that locality, but would not undertake to exactly describe them, either then or now, and there are others better fitted to write up all the outlying district which it is desirable should be done. To write a history of the town was not conceived to be the purpose of this paper, but to record such matter as might occur to the citizens as worthy of preserving; but as much early history as may be gathered and put at the use of any interested person or persons would certainly be prized. That persevering student of history and genealogy, the late Mr. Nathan G. Pond, certainly deserved that his memory should be honored by an effort to carry on his work as far as we may be able, and the family have very generously placed in our library much of the collection that he had been able to get together. If every one could give their own story of the happenings and as much of history as they may possess in relation to our town and its people, the writer presumes that a very interesting and valuable collection could be made. Within the recollection of many now living one would have experienced an almost complete transformation not only in mechanics, arts and sciences, but in religious teachings, in its means of social intercourse and a knowledge of foreign countries and peoples. We are surprised at the revelations as set forth by travellers in lands hitherto little understood. In our own land, where sixty years ago were only the haunts of the wild beasts and their almost equally wild human co-partners of the forest, are now established homes of culture and wealth, stately buildings and all that goes to make for twentieth century progress. Let us then consider that the children of today will have an interest in that which now may be put on record relating to even a few years back. It is with a true sense of my own want of the ability to carry out purposes of such a desirable end, that I submit such as jotted down from my own recollection, and feeling that in many respects corrections may be made by others to bring the text nearer the truth, and such corrections should most certainly be made. From the beginning here made, it is hoped that it will prove an incentive to others, not only to add to but to correct such errors as may be found in this my crude effort. Although I have made many requests of others to write up something that has passed under their own observation or been told them by creditable relations, as yet there has

been no response, and while I have no desire to make misstatements, I sincerely hope that a criticism of this paper, if I may believe that any will read it, will help to bring out some of the knowledge that others possess.

In the foregoing story I find that only a mention of Green Street has been made without describing the buildings upon it sixty years ago. Mr. David Peck was among the first to build on that street, followed by Mr. Jared Merwin, Mr. Willis Peck and Messrs. Benediet Peek and Charles Wheeler, all before the recollection of the writer, Mrs. Martha Stowe and Mr. Henry Cornwall and Capt. and Mrs. Frederick Stowe in 1852. As these houses are all standing I will not undertake to describe them.

Pond Street was open only to the depth of Mr. Henry Cornwall's plot, Mr. Cornwall having at the rear of his lot a small shoe shop to which access was then had from Pond Street, so named from Governor Pond, who at one time could have entered upon his own ground at Broad Street and never have left it until he reached Seaside Lane opposite Meadowside Lane, embracing all the property on both sides of the present Center Street except that of the Charles Merwin estate and that of George Bristol, on both sides of Pond Street to the harbor, Union Street and Read Street and Rogers Avenue (except at the lower end of Rogers Avenue, where were perhaps three or four acres owned by Mr. Charles Baldwin) and about the same width as the Read Street property, right through to Seaside Lane. After the discovery of gold in California and the rush began to the new Eldorado, an expedition was planned to go from New Haven and vicinity, and the ship Isaac Bell was chartered or purchased to sail around Cape Horn to the "Promised Land." Several from Milford joined the company and sailed with it. There was then very crude methods of conveying news as compared with Twentieth Century achievement, and many months passed before we might learn the result. History has taught us in a general way what the early days were like. Among those who went from Milford were Charles and Samuel Tibbals, Charles and Lewis Clark, Theodore Green, Henry K. Stowe, Sherman Crofut, and probably others whose names the writer cannot now recall, only a part of whom ever came back. Charles Tibbals, who was the father of Mr. Albert C. Tibbals, now of Milford, 1912, never set foot upon the land

of his dreams, but died as the vessel was entering the harbor of San Francisco. His brother lived a few years there, but never returned. Charles and Lewis Clark and Theodore Green came home again and lived many years. The others have died without ever seeing again the home they left with such bright golden prospects. About the beginning of the last half of the nineteenth century, Messrs. Elisha Flagg and Nathan A. Baldwin, under the style of Flagg & Baldwin, erected a factory and began here the manufacture of straw hats, and from a small beginning the business took on gigantic proportions, as then viewed, and hundreds of employees thronged our streets outside of working hours, and not a few of our present residents can assign their presence here to that influence. Miss Mary Mills, whom we all knew so well as Mrs. Green, was induced to enter the employ as an experienced and skillful teacher in the art of forming the hats from the imported braid, and continued in the employ for many years. Many attempts were made to supersede hand sewing of braid by machinery, and at one time there was a veritable curiosity shop in a part of the attic there, but not until Mr. C. F. Bosworth introduced his blind stitch machine for that purpose, did any practical success result. The Bosworth machine was a simple but effective variety of the Singer machine of that time, and the Bosworth attachments might have been with equal facility used on any one of a number of machines then or now in vogue, and were not superseded because they did not do what they intended, but because it was found that there was no real demand for their product. This was not true when a prejudice against machine work sought any plausible excuse for denuding it of its laurels. Straw hats had been made by hand and the stitches were presumed to be concealed, and when the sewing machine became an assured fact, after an uphill struggle against that before-mentioned prejudice a visible stitch upon the exposed surface would never have been tolerated, and a machine to do such work would never have lived long enough to have donned long dresses. But such a machine was made a success by an effective appliance to conceal the stitch and the bridge was crossed. No one now questions the form of stitch after the finished product leaves the factory. The straw hat industry for a time almost entirely displaced shoemaking by hand and no considerable restriction of the industry ap-

peared until the factory method was introduced. It is believed that during the Civil War there was a spasmodic effort to again produce footwear for the soldiers, but it was only a temporary revival produced by the excitement of those strenuous days, and collapsed ultimately when the stimulant was exhausted.

CHAPTER IX.

The crude methods of those early days served their purpose, and as the human system takes on strength and stature as years are added, so also does the advancement in science and the arts give adequate promise as time wanes. We educate our children for their work in life, and only as that education is productive in after years will it prove a success. That success may not be apparent to its author, but like Christopher Columbus, who never lived to know that he had discovered a continent, the world may profit by the achievement when its author has passed beyond earthly fame. The spiral screw that would be altogether indispensable, gave little benefit to its producer. The usual number of mechanical motions is regarded as six and only three of these primary, and perhaps even two of these might be considered as one, viz., the lever and pulley. But the combination and adaptation are unlimited. Sixty years ago a community lived much within itself and was more nearly self-supporting. As the Israelites of old wandered with their flocks to pastures new when the old ceased to adequately supply the demand, so now we figuratively pass from one area to another in the progress of science and art. Elasticity in its true definition can meet the demands of progress. We must expand or reach out for what the world has to offer while yet we have the property of resuming our own position. The new rests upon the foundation of the old, but the Yule log of our fathers is now used to generate power to drive the wheels of progress. The flint and steel have been replaced by the electric spark, the saddle horse by the limousine. Miles Standish with his dozen followers served as the standing army of the Pilgrims, while fifty years ago it required 2,700,000 men to put down one insurrection. Two or three small packets sufficed to bring our supplies from abroad sixty years ago, while today a fully equipped four-track steam railroad is required to compass the traffic of a part of New England, of which we demand a proper

proportion, while possibly as much is brought into our town by trolley express and private conveyance as would have furnished our fathers with a complete supply. Not only have changes been made in mechanics, transportation and communication, but there has also come a great social change. The community spirit that governed society sixty years ago has given way to a spirit of rivalry, the age of caste, the desire to be or appear a little above the average citizen by reason of some special act of an ancestor or of having been initiated into an ironclad class with its mysterious grips and signs. These societies have their sphere, but where is the old neighborly feeling that interested itself in the welfare of all? Under the old regime perhaps we put a high estimate upon the qualities of our public men, but in most cases they merited our esteem. Who of us ever doubted the sincerity of such a man as David L. Baldwin, for instance, whose signature is attached to so many legal documents in the public archives? He was a wise and earnest counselor, whose aim appeared to be to merit the confidence reposed in him. It is true political strife was perhaps as conspicuous as today, but it was open warfare and a victory was complete. Mr. Baldwin was not alone in the names whose memory we revere. I can recall the names of Selah Strong, William Durand, Samuel B. Gunn, William Pond, Charles H. Pond, Nathan Tomlinson, DeLuzerno Hubbell, Amos Ford, John K. Bristol, Treat Clark, Amos Clark, Pond Strong, Esquire Strong, and there are many others whom I do not now recall, but all men whom we held in respect as public guardians. We looked upon the clergy as men of weight and influence in the community from all of whom we might seek advice or counsel and whose wisdom was undoubted. Neighbor vied with neighbor in kindly acts. We knew little of what was transpiring outside and our community was our world. Barter or exchange was common. Fish and clams were plentiful and when one went to the shore he or she remembered those who were deprived of that privilege and shared with them. Vegetables were freely exchanged and such little attentions as might be afforded were given with pleasure. The social gatherings were truly pleasing events where equality meant equal friendship for all. The old-time quilting party, followed by the old-time supper, was not only a pleasing event in its day, but it has left its impress upon the memory of those who were witnesses of

the good feeling that prevailed. Hard cider, apples, hickory nuts and mince pies were often an accompaniment of an evening out, and I must confess that the emptied glasses in the morning had a rather queer smell for cider in any stage of existence. Barn raising, corn husking, election, donations for the Minister, picnics, boat sailing, and training days, Wash Day for the Fire Company when they got out to test their engine and drill for practical work, working out highway taxes, pitching quoits, playing checkers or dominoes, and numerous other pastimes were all reviewed in the village stores in the evening. Calico dresses and nankeen pantalets on the girls and patched trousers and short jackets on the boys was the rule and not the exception. In the "little red schoolhouse" (that we hear so much about but never saw in Milford with the single exception of the Academy on the rocky mound near the white bridge), I repeat, in the little red schoolhouse, which was invariably painted white with green shutters, could be seen evidence of the Yankee propensity for whittling in the complete carved surface of the desks and the plastered walls frescoed with spitballs that were never disturbed by those whose duty it was to whitewash the ceiling. Perhaps the following names have been dropped from the vocabulary of the twentieth century boy, but semilem, hooker, rooker, mumblepeg, old-gent, and jump-the-fence alternated with "one hole cat," "roll hole," "knock up and catch." Even an old offender like myself cannot recall the name by which our game of ball was known, in which two boys at the bat faced each other at a distance of perhaps fifty feet apart with a catcher behind each and all others in the field, and the catcher was also pitcher, and the ball served alternately to either batsman. A strike called for a run which meant an exchange of position of the batsmen with the chance of either being put out before gaining the plate, and also the striker being caught out on the fly. Baseball was played, but had less rules attending. Coasting and skating in the winter we believe belong to no particular era, but the form of skates and sleds used in those days has long become obsolete. Grocers did not then deliver their goods, nor did they take orders except at the store, but usually sold in larger quantities than now. Flour was mostly sold by the barrel, molasses and rum by the gallon, and other things in like proportion, and the state banks issued notes that might or might not represent their

face value, and every one was scrutinized and the "Bank Note Reporter" consulted before the bargain was consummated and the change returned, said change for the greater part being in Mexican coin or fractional part of a shilling, and a shilling might mean any one of several kinds, thus a "fourpence" had a value of six and one-quarter cents, which was one-half a York shilling or one-sixteenth of a dollar. The Yankee shilling was one-sixth of a dollar. In New York City the shilling was the standard, and a barrel of potatoes might be priced at 12 shillings or whatever might be the market value. Shoes worn by the ladies as late as 1862 (when the writer ceased for a while to observe the prevailing styles other than the regulation blue) were never of the ordinary pattern of high cut dress shoes that have been commonly worn since, but buskins and Congress gaiters were cut to about meet the joint at the ankle. Hoop-skirts came into use about the latter part of the fifties and various schemes were improvised to meet the requirements of fashion, first perhaps a single hoop of rattan at the hem of the skirt, then a strip of brass was used, but as the demand increased the steel manufacturers of the Naugatuck Valley began to produce a cloth covered hoop that was soon followed by the bringing out of a special tape into which the hoops might be run and by suitable clasps held in the desired position. Thus the hoop-skirt became a separate article of ladies' wearing apparel and kept its place for nearly or quite a decade. Shoes without heels were the rule for ladies' wear until after the middle of the nineteenth century, and bonnets were not replaced by hats until the "Bloomer" was introduced. This was a part of the Bloomer costume that it was sought to introduce about that time and consisted of a short-skirted dress and trousers yet known as bloomers, and a very broad brimmed, low-crown hat. The bloomer trousers were gathered at the ankle with a small ruffled edge below. The style never became popular, and the writer can remember having seen it worn by but one person. The hat, however, did become popular and was worn for many seasons. The trousers have found their proper sphere in the athletic world but in a modified form. Men wore the Wellington or top boot, and very generally for dress the silk tile or beaver hat. Embroidered or other fancy bosom shirts with collars attached, either rolling or standing pattern, with either a stock or large handkerchief cravat. Silk velvet

vests and watches with a ribbon about the neck for a guard. Fobs were worn on dress occasions and stem winding watches had yet to be produced. The breastpin had a head with some kind of setting and a bar perhaps 1⅛ inches in length at the back of which near the extreme end was attached the catch for the holding pin. Coal burning stoves had ceased to be a novelty but not in general use, as wood was more plentiful and its use better understood. Pigs and chickens might be found on the premises of a large majority of householders, and in the winter a cellar liberally stocked with provisions, such as vegetables, pork, hams, dried-beef, salt fish, apples, vinegar, cider, etc., and in the attic hanging to the rafters were "spareribs," sausages, dried apples and bags of small fruits, bunches of herbs, hops and medicinal roots. The houses were not generally heated except in the living room, but those blessed words, "The Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," were then, as now, in His Holy Word, and the fertile brain of man had devised "The Old Warming Pan." I can yet imagine the comforting assurance conveyed by the sight of that old comforter disappearing up the stairway and the fumes of fragrance of the live coals with the burning sugar sprinkled on them and the welcome call when each bed should be ready for occupancy. I can well remember sitting near the fire on the open hearth when the sap was driven from the ends of the hickory and the pleasing odors as it burned, but the most pleasing remembrance was the unbroken family circle of an old time Christian home.

As I review the past in my mind's eye I can see the heads of families with whom I held friendly relations, not one of whom is living today. I can see the line of fences weather-beaten and brown, perhaps, but the latch-string (figuratively speaking) always out. I can see those gateways in the division fence, a sincere reminder that there could be no impassable barrier between neighbors. There was no thought then whether one's father came over with Noah in the Ark or had a boat of his own. It mattered little to what church one belonged except when the bells were ringing. A political opponent was not suspected of having horns and a cloven hoof. The general rush from the farm to the city had not then set in and farmers' sons grew up to be farmers as naturally as corn produced corn. The schools in summer were attended largely by girls and small boys, and in the winter term these were supplemented by the

boys of larger growth and in some instances of wild growth. The school hours were from nine to twelve and one till four, with a morning Saturday in which specialties prevailed. There were spelling matches, catechism, memorizing Bible verses, etc., but in the afternoon we were permitted to have a half holiday for doing up the chores, clamming or running errands for the neighbors whose gardens did not yield boys. The family who had any kind of a labor-saving machine or a servant in those days was rare, but temporary help was to be had almost for the asking. The dressmaker, like the old-time teacher, might be expected to "board around" and was engaged far ahead, though she was never married. Old Aunt Keziah with her litttle carpet bag swinging from her arm was always a welcome visitor, whether in her official capacity or as a dispenser of good cheer. The old three cent silver piece, or shad scale, as we sometimes called it, had stamped upon one of its sides three figure ones inside of a letter C, and it seems to me that I must have the same impression in plain view of others, for no matter how hard I worked dropping potatoes or corn or piling wood, my value for a half day seemed always to be three cents, for anything less, a doughnut or a piece of pie, but if I had all the pen-knives that were promised me I would have started a bargain counter.

CHAPTER X.

I have recently received a fine calendar from one of our new enterprises in town, and of course as an actor upon the stage at the time represented, "an old resident," I must needs critisize, though in the main favorably. I must express a little doubt that the plant in the pot was really a Geranium, and take away altogether the kerosene lamp suspended from the ceiling. A "fluid lamp" burning a compound of spirits of turpentine and other ingredients I would willingly pass, or an oil lamp. If in a church or hall I could pass a camphene lamp, but I must draw the line at kerosene which had yet to be introduced. Wax candles were par excellence, the popular innovation when tallow candles were frowned upon, and the candlelabra were certainly such as might grace any table of today. The silver was sterling or its substitute was not a plate to imitate it, but of genuine undisguised pewter. The art of electro-plating came on later. Plating then was done by soldering thin rolled sheets of silver to a surface of baser metal that had been made very smooth beforehand, and pewter would not stand up under the necessary heat. Copper and brass ware was not then rolled or spun into the desired form without seam, but the edges were brought together and locked by "dovetails" and then "brazed" with a medium that fused at a lower temperature than the basic metal. The old "Dutch Oven" was made from tin, bent in cylindrical form but having an opening on one side with legs so attached as to present the open side to the fire or the hearth before which it was placed. It was usually about the length of an ordinary flour barrel and of somewhat smaller diameter and fitted with a shelf upon which the food to be baked was placed. The reflection of heat by the bright upper and lower surfaces of the tin served to bake in a very satisfactory manner. A modification of this oven made from flat plates and collapsible was offered to the soldiers during the war for the Union, but with all departments of a portable flat from kitchen to bedroom strapped to one person in addition to an ordinance and commis-

sary outfit, office fixtures and all, the offer was not accepted by anything like a majority vote. Rag carpets, if any, and braided mats of either rags or corn husks, were used for floor coverings with plain painted oilcloth on kitchen floors. A "spider" used in the kitchen was a frying pan with long legs that would stand firm over a bed of coals on the hearth. In the South a similar utensil was used, but deeper and having a flanged edge on the cover, so that while the vessel proper stood over the coals, more coals might be carried on the lid so as to apply the heat more nearly even upon both sides of the food within. Baking of biscuit was often done in that way. The crane was suspended at one side of the fireplace, its beam extending nearly across, and from it by means of hooks, often adjustable, were hung the kettles. The spit was not much used within the recollection of the writer, but was suspended from the center of the fireplace in such a manner that it might be readily turned about so that any or all sides of the roast impaled upon it might present itself evenly to the fire. Dripping pans probably served to catch the juices that dripped from the roast and served to baste from. Before the advent of the corn sheller the farmer boy used to sit upon the blade of a spade projecting over a tub or box, and by means of the sharp bit and the corn on the cob held at a proper angle the corn was so shelled with passable facility. Mowing and reaping was done by hand, as was also thrashing out the ripened grain. The farmer used to fell his timber logs and sled them to the sawmill where they were sawed into timber and lumber and were ready to be returned to the owner. The grain was carried to the mill and the flour or meal taken away with no mention of remuneration to the miller, as it was always expected that he had taken his toll from the grist. The sawmills were mostly open sheds with little protection from the winds except from one side, and the flour mills were always cold except for the heat generated by the milling process. The dust floating in the air was almost as sensitive to fire as gunpowder, and no fire was therefore admitted within the building, waterpower of course driving the machinery. Teams of oxen were used very generally in farm work and teaming, though horses, one or more, were generally kept for marketing and family use. The strictest economy was practiced in respect to anything that cost money or extra labor, and the writer got himself disliked at one time while

working on a farm because he would wear stockings on Sunday in the summer time. Charles Island had a large building on the highest ground, presumably a hotel, with verandah encircling it on the first and second stories, and from the recollection of the writer it was usually open to parties visiting the Island. There were also a small house near the landing and a bowling alley nearby.

Mr. Fred Clements and Mr. Louis Woods were caretakers at different times, and when Mr. Pritchard took it, he, for a short time, ran a small side-wheel steamboat between the Island and the Town Wharf. The channel at that time had not been dredged and was barely passable for skiffs at low water, so that there was little depending upon the regularity of trips. I think I have mentioned the tin horn that called the fishermen to duty when the watchman at the fish house discovered the promise of a good haul, but that does not cover the whole story. One of our citizens, musically inclined, procured a horn the counterpart of the fish horn, and at twilight each pleasant summer evening repaired to the summit of the wooded knoll near what is now Noble Avenue just south of Broad Street, and there brought out such strains as he and the horn could produce. His selections were entirely original and the measure was regulated by his own lung power, but withal it was not an unwelcome serenade, and as I recollect was never frowned upon by its hearers. I also alluded to the profanity of Capt. Augustus Kelsey, and in no wise to speak disparagingly of that genial little man, I will give a little instance. "Ginger-Ten, Snake-Root," or when he caught a good fish, "T-y ty, I've got him."

We had a brass band that we thought a wonder, for it was the only one most of us had ever heard, but my musical ear is not retroactive, and I cannot say now whether it was or not worth while. Certain it is, it was all made up of colored players (or colored men who played). We had lecture courses under the auspices of the Milford Lyceum, that need no criticism, for the best lecturers on the platform at that time were sought, and in many instances entertained us, among whom were Henry Ward Beecher, Horace Greeley, Professor Hayes, the Arctic explorer, and not a few others quite as popular. The Lyceum also held debates that brought out home talent that was not to be despised. They also tried to inaugurate a public library system, but without much success for many years, but if

I mistake not it was the nucleus of our present collection in the Taylor Library. The school system was made up of a disjointed lot of districts, each independent, having its own committee, who selected their own teachers without let or hindrance, and the principal qualification was that the applicant must write in a plain hand. It sometimes happened that the hand was required for other duty than writing copy, and then it was well for the teacher if the stamp of authority was duly recognized, and usually it was, at least in so far as to keep down open insurrection if it did not mutterings. The school books were seldom changed, and at the beginning of each term it was the rule to begin the book anew and the advancement in grade depended more on the age of the pupil than proficiency in achievement. Corporal punishment was expected for fracture of the rules, and often it was administered unjustly and in some instances brutally. That there were no fatalities to report was a mere matter of chance, as missiles thrown in more than one instance were as deadly in their possibilities as bullets from a gun, but fortunately the aim was as erratic as the temper of the thrower.

Leaving the schools, we will view the occupation of some of the boys out of school—driving cows. In the settlement of the town it is well known that homestead plots were allotted the settlers within the palisaded enclosure, with outlands beyond its confines, and sixty years ago or thereabouts the same system obtained to some extent and cattle were driven to and from pasture daily, and the writer was one of the victims of that system and can recall with some wonderment the daily trips at morning and evening from Green Street to and from Eells' Hill twice each day seven days per week, and all for a sum of twenty-five cents, to be received in milk as currency. It is often said that a dollar in those days was as big as a cart wheel, and it needs no extended argument to convince the men of three score years and ten of the truth of the saying. As one views the activities of these twentieth century days and the facilities for travel not only throughout our own wide domain and abroad, but right in the boundaries of our town, he feels like turning back the wheels of time to begin again the duties of that period aided by modern helps. However, if we give the matter a moment's thought, that is just what is now going on, but the appearance is so changed as to be strange until we think

of these wonderful days. For instance, the cows are still grazing on the selfsame pasture but they are not compelled to bring their own milk in to town nor is the farmer compelled to bring to them in town the provender that is garnered now near the fields from which it is taken and where the stock is to be fed. Men go to the daily task of making nails as men went an hundred years ago, but by the aid of machinery the man can almost equal the output in number today that the smith could have produced from that day to this. Some will say that machinery has thus made manual labor a drug. Let us see what mean those long lists of emigrants coming from all parts of the world. Look into the house of the working man and see the piano, the talking machine, the carpeted floors, the sanitary conveniences, running water, etc., see the lighted street, the bicycles, the commerce, the motor-boats, the trolley car carrying him for a nickel the length of the town, see the paved walks, free mail delivery to the remote section for the small sum of two cents, see your townsmen going from eight or ten to seventy miles to their business, go to your telephone and speak to your friend in New York or beyond if you wish, go into your cash department and receive and transmit to the farthest saleslady the payment and change for a purchase; go into the elevator and without even a "thank you" be carried to the topmost floor at your discretion—but why enumerate? Sit down and eat a dish of ice cream or eat a banana, or have you become cloyed? The writer was ignorant of both in his boyhood. He also recalls an incident when a man with an ice-coated beard had made his way through the deep and drifted snow from near where now is the reservoir for our water supply when a railway train was stalled by the storm, and he in that cold and trackless path intent on reaching New Haven on foot that he might telegraph an important message. At that time two lone wires strung on poles ran through our town with no instrument or operator nearer than Bridgeport or New Haven.

The section of Milford now known as Fort Trumbull Beach was until after the Civil War all farm land. There had at one time been a house near the roadway opposite Mr. Thomas Falls' Cottage occupied and perhaps owned by one Justin Woods. Abigail Arnold also owned property in that vicinity, perhaps including all east of the "Bear Neck Lane," as Sea-

side Avenue was then called. This land was purchased by Mr. F. E. Burns, I should say from my recollection about 1855, and he planted corn chiefly over the whole ground. He erected a barn thereon, which was then the only building along the shore front from the Harbor west to Milford Point, at which Point had been for many years the huts of the fishermen who drew their living from the water. The barn erected by Mr. Burns is yet standing, in rear of the Larkin house. A plot of ground on the west of Bear Neck lane was owned by Thaddeus Baldwin and given by him to his grandson, Thaddeus Baldwin Merwin. Adjoining that plot on the west was the property of Alvin Stow.

It is a matter of history that a Fort was built, guns mounted and a garrison kept on duty during the Revolution, minute men stationed at different points and military organizations maintained for home duty as Coast Guard. Orders were issued by the British Commander to make a depot of Charles Island and round up all the livestock in the surrounding towns and transport them to the Island to be drawn from as needed. An attempt was made at Fairfield to execute this order, but failed, and possibly the "bulldogs" at Fort Trumbull had an influence in the countermanding of that order. History does not record a single battle on Milford soil in which the English were engaged, nor is there a record of any white person killed or seriously injured by the Indians within the limits of the town. No record is shown of any Indian camp at Fort Trumbull Beach, but there was formerly sufficient evidence to prove that it had been so used, in the accumulation of shells west of Bear Neck lane, near where was erected the house known to the writer as the Aston House.

In the boyhood days of the writer bathing suits were those cast off by Adam and Eve when fig leaves came in vogue, but the beach was spacious enough to accommodate all, and there was an unwritten law that forbade intrusion upon pre-empted territory, and the writer never learned of any violations.

A Chronological History of Milford.

By NATHAN STOWE

This chronological history, now in its first edition, is subject to correction, addition and elimination.

(Courtesy of Price, Lee and Company, New Haven, Conn.)

1637—Arrived in Boston, company of Messrs. Davenport and Eaton, men of wealth and highest respectability.

A committee of investigation sent to Quinnipiac with a view to settlement, six of whom were left to winter at Quinnipiac. Of this number, John Beecher died.

1638—Company left Boston by vessel, arriving in Quinnipiac in the first week in April, 1638, near a large oak tree, about where now is College and George Streets.

—The Sabbath following their safe arrival, they gathered for worship under the "large oak tree." Mr. Davenport preached in the morning.

—Mr. Peter Prudden preached in the afternoon, from the text Matt. 3:3. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." The planters at once set about building for a permanent settlement. The Hereford men under the leadership of Mr. Prudden kept much to themselves with a view of making a separate plantation.

1639—The original purchase was made for the planters from "Ansantawai" the Chief of the Paugussett Tribe of Indians and his associates Arracowset, Anshuta, Manamatque and Tatacenacouse, lesser Chiefs, and confirmed by "twig and turf" the Indian mode of transfer. The Indians also confirmed the sale by affixing their mark to a deed of sale in accordance with the English custom, the English having written the signatures of the several Chiefs for them. The deed was taken for the planters by William Fowler, Edmund Tapp, Zachariah Whitman, Benjamin Fenn and

Alexander Bryan. Later purchases were made until the boundary line was at Waterbury. The original purchase consisted of all the land lying between the East river and the Housatonic, with Long Island Sound on the south two miles toward Paugussett (Derby) north.

—Early in the Spring the planters, with their families yet at Quinnipiac, began preparations for occupancy. The material for the Common House was brought by water from New Haven, and set up near the head of the harbor on the west side. Such other material and utensils as were desired for building were probably brought at the same time.

—A meeting of the planters of Quinnipiac, Wopowage and Mimmncatuck was held in the barn of Mr. Robert Newman for the purpose of formulating a set of rules for the government of the Churches. After much discussion, Mr. Davenport requested Mr. Newman to read the rules as he had written them. After the reading a vote was taken, and was manimous for their adoption "no man dissenting."

—The reading and voting were repeated with the same result. Historical sermon by Rev. E. C. Baldwin.

—Having decided the fundamental questions they prepared to organize their churches, which was done in the same barn.

Says Mr. Mather:—"Our glorious Lord himself born in a manger, it was the more allowable that a church * * * * * * should be born in a barn. I behold our Lord with His fan in His hand purging His floor, and gathering His wheat into the garner."

Mr. Phillip Henry said: "No new thing turning a threshing floor into a Temple." From the text of Scripture, "Wisdom hath builded her house. She hath hewn out her seven pillars," was derived the plan of placing the church government upon seven pillars selected from the most stable material.

—In the Fall of 1639, the planters of Mr. Prudden's company, led by Sergt. Thomas Tibbals, followed the devious Indian paths, driving their flocks before them, and came to their new home by the Wepowang. They set down thickly together on both sides of Mill river and the West End brook, for the convenience of water for themselves and their stock. Their household goods were brought by water.

Mr. Prudden had been serving the planters at Wethersfield as a preacher and many from that place chose to follow him to Wepowang, thereby bringing the estimated number of inhabitants to about two hundred.

—The first general meeting of the planters was held (probably in the Common House) at which a civil polity was adopted, only church members being allowed to vote or entitled to hold office. At this meeting were chosen officers, for the purpose of dividing and allotting the land, taking orders for timber, trying causes between man and man, and to exercise a general supervision of civil affairs in the plantation. A court of five judges was authorized to call the people together at stated periods and such other times when desirable, for the public benefit. Just when the Home lots section of the plantation was enclosed within a line of palisades is not shown but probably as early as practicable, surely before 1646.

—As stated, a coastwise traffic was early in vogue, between Milford and other parts.

1640—Was held the second general meeting of the Wepowang planters. They then agreed with Mr. William Fowler, that he should build a grist mill and a house for it, and have it going by the last of September. For his encouragement he was granted thirty acres of land rate free during his natural life, and later the perpetual use of the stream. It was the first grist mill in the colony. Mr. Fowler later set up a saw mill.

—Train Band organized. John Astwood, Captain.

—Just two years from the first meeting for worship under "the large oak tree" at Quinnipiac, came the regular ordination of Mr. Peter Prudden as pastor of the church in Milford. He was ordained by his own brethren, Zachariah Whitman, William Fowler and Edmund Tapp who derived their authority from the Church.

—The next general meeting was held, and with common consent and general vote of the freemen, the plantation was named Milford, and the seal adopted for the use of the town was composed of the two letters M & F united, signifying—it is said—United Milford Freemen. At this meeting "the Court of Five Judges" was directed to build

a bridge over the Mill river with all expedition; also to set up a Meeting House thirty feet square, after such manner as they should judge most convenient for the public good. This House was erected on the site of the present structure. The bridge was the Meeting House bridge.

1641—The Meeting House being "set up" the sitting was arranged with respect to aged persons, the wives of church officers and magistrates, general military officers and deaf persons. Alexander Bryan was early in trade with Boston and other coastwise ports and a little later his son Richard entered the same line. Mr. Bryan's notes passed as current in Boston as do now our National Bank notes.

—Every one who did not keep a ladder on his house was liable to pay a fine of five (5) shillings.

—Robert Treat, though yet under age, was recognized as possessing uncommon ability and was called upon to assist in surveying and laying out the divisions of land. This year Mr. Richard Miles returned to New Haven.

1642—Dr. Jasper Grum, for whom there fortunately was little to do in a professional line, turned his attention to instructing the youth of the community and was ably assisted for a short time by Rev. John Sherman.

1643—Four pence was to be paid on every house lot, to defray public expense.

—Mr. Edmund Tapp died in New Haven. This year all of the English in New England realizing that a union of the Colonies, so far as to render each other mutual assistance in the event of hostile action by the Dutch or Indians was necessary, agreed to such united action in case of need.

1644—Milford united with New Haven Colony.

—Solomon, son of William East, aged about one year, died the first death among the English to occur in the town since settlement.

—Henry Tomlinson to open an "Ordinary" (or Tavern).

1645—Fowler's Bridge built. First school house built, used also for public gatherings.

—Zachariah Whitman ordained Ruling Elder of the Church. John Sherman and Thomas Tapping went to Branford.

—Church met for the choice of Deacons. Brother Fenn and Brother Clark, Jr., were nominated.

—Sarah, wife of Nicholas Camp died, the first adult among the settlers to die in Milford.

—Division fences between house lots set up. By this time most of the planters had frame houses erected, lots numbered and names given on map.

1646—A list of the planters, and a plan of the town plot is made, showing where each house lot is situated. The residential part of the purchase was already enclosed by a line of palisades. About this time the Indians became troublesome, and set fire to the country around, which, though it greatly damaged the timber and meadows, was quenched before it reached the palisades, and no houses were destroyed.

1647—Benjamin Fenn was called as Deacon and duly installed.

1648—The Guard House, which was common property, was sold for twenty (20) shillings to Mr. James Rogers.

—Thomas Lawrence and the Widow Beard, settlers, died. The Mohawk Indians were secreted in a swamp awaiting a chance to attack the Milford Indians, but were discovered by the English who notified the Wepowangs. The latter set up the war-whoop and gathered in such numbers that they attacked and defeated the invaders, killing some and capturing some, one of whom they stripped, bound to a stake and left in the great meadows to starve and be tortured by the mosquitoes. He was found and released by one of the English, Thomas Hine, and set at liberty.

1650—Alexander Bryan was granted a piece of land at the corner of Broad Street and Dock lane on which to build a warehouse. He also built a wharf at the end of the lane where now is the Straw Hat Factory.

1651—Thomas Sanford given leave to build a barn on Sachem's Island, provided he did not place it where it would interfere with the building of a bridge and roadway.

1653—Alexander Bryan gave to the town the wharf he had built on condition that they would maintain it.

1654—John Astwood died in England where he had gone on a public mission for the people. Robert Treat succeeded him in the Train Band.

1655—A Latin school established in Milford "for such scholars as need learning."

—Mr. Richard given permission to build a warehouse on the opposite side of the lane from his father's.

Further purchase of land from the Indians, by Ensign Bryan, Sergt. Baldwin and William East.

—The "Ordinance" House was sold (Note:—This possibly relates to the House kept by Henry Tomlinson as there was at this time, no little friction between Mr. Richard Bryan, Mr. Tomlinson, and the town authorities as to the sale or exchange of the House in which the Tavern or Ordinary was kept).

1656—Mr. Peter Prudden died this year, and Mr. Mather said of him: "He continued an able and faithful servant of the churches until about the fifty-sixth year of his own age, and the fifty-sixth of the present age, when his death was felt by the colony as the fall of a pillar which made the whole fabric to shake."

1657—Milford Island, originally laid out to George Hubbard who sold it to Richard Bryan, is beautifully situated about three-quarters of a mile from the mainland but with a bar between it and the shore that is bare half the time. Permission was given by the town to Charles Deal to purchase the island for a tobacco plantation on condition that the buildings should not be used for any other purpose; he should not trade with the Dutch or Indians, nor harbor any sailors or disreputable persons thereon. There is a legend that the notorious Capt. Kidd buried treasure on the island which is probably a myth, but that he did at times land there is quite probable, as he once made a visit to the town, and, as stated in a letter from a maiden of the town, took the liberty to kiss her, which liberty it seems she did not greatly resent.

—Mr. Thomas Buckingham, Sr. died in Boston where he was in search of a successor to the Rev. Peter Prudden.

1659-60—Indian Neck between East river and the Sound and land from the Indian path to Oyster river south to the foot path from Pangwell to New Haven, given by Robert Treat and Ensign Bryan.

1660—Mr. William Fowler died.

—About this time the exportation of timber suitable for vessels or pumps forbidden.

Rev. Roger Newton, son-in-law of Rev. Thomas Hooker, was installed as Pastor of the Church of Christ, in Milford. He was one of the seven founders, and the first Pastor of the Church in Farmington, continued here until his death July 7, 1683.

1661—The Regicides, Major Generals Goffe and Whalley came to Milford and for two years were secreted in the basement of a small building, used by the family as a work shop, standing at the rear of Mr. Micah Tomkins' house, the daughters often at their work in the room overhead entirely ignorant of the presence of anyone below.

—The first burying ground laid out by town.

1662—The bridge (Great Bridge) over Indian River was built.

—Robert Treat was commissioned Captain of the Train Band having been in command as Lieutenant since the death of Captain John Astwood.

1662—This year Samuel Eells came to Milford and soon took a prominent part in the affairs of the town and colony. He was commissioner for the purchase of lands, and settling boundary lines, town clerk, captain of the Train Band and saw active service in Philip's War, with Capt. Church, and under Robert Treat. He was appointed on a committee to copy the records of the town and was selected by the committee to transcribe them.

1663—He married Anna, daughter of Rev. Robert Lenthal, the officiating clergyman at the burial of the great John Hampden. About 1670 he built the house now known as the "Stow House," sold by his grandson Nathaniel Eells to Captain Stephen Stow in 1754.

—Zachariah Whitman died.

1664—Thomas Oviatt came to Milford. He was the nephew of Alexander Bryan and later held the office of town clerk. He was called "Mr." He was the founder of the family in Milford. Thomas Uffort was the founder of a distinct family name now extinct here.

—New Haven jurisdiction dissolved and Milford came under the Connecticut Charter.

1665—Thomas Ford died.

—Robert Treat went to Newark, N. J., with Mr. Pierson's Company.

1666—James Prudden and Francis Norton died.

—Col. Samuel Eells was born, son of Captain Samuel. He was liberally educated and took a very prominent part in affairs of the town and colony, was Colonel of the New Haven County Regiment, Assistant Naval Officer, Magistrate, etc., born and lived about 87 years in the house given him by his father, the "Stow House," and ancestor in one line of J. Pierpont Morgan.

1669—Joseph Northrup died.

1670—Jasper Green died.

—Thomas Clark graduated from Harvard College. He was a planter in Milford, Capt. of Militia, Justice of the Peace, Representative to the General Assembly a number of years, and Judge of the County Court. He married a daughter of Asst.-Gov. Gibbard of New Haven.

—Thomas Tibbals was given land in consideration of his helpfulness in serving Alexander Bryan, Esq., and Assistant John Beard, Commissioned Captain.

1671—Capt. Thomas Willit and Mrs. Johanna Prudden married.

1672—Robert Treat returned to Milford from Newark, N. J., where he was classed as the founder of that place and a tablet has recently been inscribed.

—Governor Johnathan Law born in Milford.

1673—John Clark ordained Ruling Elder. Died the next year.

1674—The town had long owned a flock of sheep sometimes 1,500, this year they sequestered two miles of land for the use of the town as a sheep pasture.

1675—A Fulling Mill and Saw Mill were built on the island near the meeting house, by Major Treat, Elder Buckingham, Lieut. Fowler and Thomas Hayes.

—Richard Bryan and Sergeant East were in the trade with West Indies exporting horses, cattle, corn meal, etc., bringing back rum and molasses.

—King Philip's war in which a number of Milford men were engaged, but unfortunately we do not know just whom.

That Robert Treat was Commander-in-Chief of the Connecticut forces we do know and also that Samuel Eells

led a company as acting Captain, not commissioned until 1680.

1676—Robert Treat was elected Deputy Governor of Connecticut and held this office and that of Governor for thirty years until the infirmity of age compelled him to decline further service.

1680—About this time the Indians, from various causes, had become few in number. In Milford eight or ten wigwams were still at Oronoque but they soon left as the white men settled near.

Their fort, near the ferry, had been destroyed by eleven young men of Milford, who, upon complaint of the Indians were brought into court, confessed their part in the mischief and were fined ten pounds, this was in 1671.

—A committee was appointed to meet a like committee from Derby to settle fairly and finally the boundary line between the two towns.

1681—The town voted that the land bought from Mrs. Ferman should be set apart and sequestered for the use of the ministry as a parsonage from one minister to another by succession in Milford, and that it should not be in the power of the town to sell, alienate or dispose of it, but for the use of the ministry as above expressed.

Forty acres were sequestered for the Stratford Ferry.

1683—The Rev. Roger Newton died, after a service in Milford of about twenty-three years.

1685—The Rev. Samuel Andrews was installed as Pastor of the church. He was one of the principal founders of Yale College, and while Rector he instructed the senior class in Milford.

—Purchase was made of a tract of land lying by the path which goes from New Haven to Derby and bounded with said path south, with the brook called Bladens Brook, north, with the line that is in the point between New Haven and Milford east, and the line that is the point between Derby and Milford west. This purchase was made by Robert Treat, Samuel Eells, Benjamin Fenn, Thomas Clark and Sylvanus Baldwin.

1686—The town gave to Nicholas Camp ground for a new warehouse. In the early history of the town, in order

to facilitate the passage of persons from the west end, it was ordered by the town that a path should cross from that section to the highway near the church. Mr. Nicholas Camp to maintain a stile at his fence and Deacon Fletcher a bridge made of a log hewed on the top side, over the brook in Little Dreadful Swamp.

1689—William Roberts, died. Earliest date of death of a settler found in Milford Cemetery.

1690—George Clark (Carpenter), died. Roger Newton and Capt. John Beard died.

—Ship building was a prominent enterprise in Milford. Bethuel Langstaff was a master builder.

—Samuel Burwell commissioned Captain of Militia in Milford.

1691—Thomas Oviatt, died. He was probably tallow-chandler or soap manufacturer as he names as collateral for a loan from Richard Bryan, quantities of oil and other material reserving for his personal use five (5) barrels of oil. His son, Thomas, was probably Town Clerk in 1689, then about 22 years of age.

Sergt. Thomas Tibbals, died. Elnathan Bolsford, died.

1696—Mungo Nisbett, a resident of the town, was given liberty to prosecute free trade and commerce. He opened traffic to New York. He married Sarah, daughter of Richard Bryan, widow of Samuel Fitch. She died in 1698. Gravestone in cemetery is a work of art on English slate.

1699—A schoolhouse, serving also as a hall, was authorized to be built at "West End" which is said to have stood for about one hundred years. The date of erection of the Town House at the East End is not found, but it is said that after schools were established a Town House was built, which in 1734, gave place to a new and larger one.

1700—In the spring of this year so much danger was apprehended that two houses were fortified against a possible attack by the Indians.

—A further purchase of land was made north of Bladen's Brook to the brook called Lebanon Brook, east by New Haven and west by the land between Derby and Milford. Committee for the purchase Robert Treat, Thomas Clark, Sr., Samuel Buckingham, Lieut. S. Baldwin and Ensign George Clark.

1701-1702—Abraham Pierson, son of Abraham Lewis of Branford and Newark, N. J., studied in Milford under Rev. Roger Newton. He married Abigail, daughter of George Clark. He was selected as the first President of Yale College in 1701. Rev. Samuel Andrews as Rector and President for many years and the successor of Abraham Pierson. He married Abigail, youngest daughter of Governor Robert Treat. Abigail Andrews, daughter of Rev. Samuel, married Johnathan Law, later Governor, and another daughter married Rev. Timothy Cutler, who was the third President of Yale.

1702—The final purchase toward the north was made. Land bounded south by Lebanon Brook, east by Milford and New Haven line, north by Beacon Hill or Waterbury line, and west by line between Derby and Milford.

1705—Joseph Wheeler settled at what was called the "Upper Meadow," on the Housatonic River, or Sergeant Camp's hop garden, the place since known as Wheeler's Farm.

1706—Plum's Bridge, on the old road at the quarry, was built by John Plum, Sr., the miller who established a mill on the Indian river near that point, and who agreed to build and maintain the bridge.

1707—Rev. Samuel Andrew chosen as Rector of Yale College and at the death of President Pierson succeeded him as President.

1709—Col. Roger Newton, who succeeded Col. Samuel Eells in command of the 2d. Regiment of Conn. troops, grandson of Rev. Roger Newton, graduate of Harvard, distinguished as a military officer in Queen Anne's War, commander the Conn. troops at Louisburg, was Judge of the County Court and Chief Judge for several times. (See inscription on gravestone Milford Cemetery.)

1710—Gov. Robert Treat died July 12, 1710, age 88.

1712—Committee appointed by the town to agree with the Stratford authorities to carry the inhabitants to Milford over the river at half price on condition that Milford furnish a boat on this side.

1713—A petition for a new patent, that should include the late purchases and define the then boundaries of the town and protect the title thereto, was drawn up by Jonathan Law

Esq., and the following committee chosen to advance the claim: Jonathan Law, Esq., Sergt. Zachariah Baldwin, Ensign Samuel Gunn, Capt. Joseph Treat, Ensign George Clark and Samuel Clark, Jr.

—The patent was granted, a copy made to which the seal of the colony was attached, and the Governor, Gruden Saltonstall, and Secretary Alexander Wyllys, of the Colony, signed their names.

—A mill, situated near the present Gulf Bridge, was erected by a company of forty of the inhabitants. It was a tide mill and could be operated only as the tides permitted. The latest owner was Mr. Stoddard father of Wm. B., Goodwin and Henry Stoddard, citizens well known and respected by all. It was demolished nearly fifty years ago.

1714—Samuel Clarke bought Bryan's warehouse.

1716—Was an uncommonly cold and hard winter.

1717—"Seaflower" launched in Milford, for Richard Bryan. Shipbuilding carried on here for about 100 years. Last vessels launched were the "Isabella" 1818 and "Marcellus" 1820. The builders were W. H. Fowler and D. L. Baldwin.

—Voted that the selectmen, Grand-Jurors, Constables, Listers, Ensign Beard and Ensign George Clark take turns to look after the boys at meetings for public worship. (Some pretty bad boys under the sod in our Cemetery).

1718—Committee chosen to view the highway leading to the parting of the river on the westward side of Mr. Merwin's lot, (probably at the Gulf shore). Also voted that two schools be kept in Town three months in the Winter. Committee chosen to regulate and settle on highways in general.

1719—Voted that the Meeting House be now seated by the same rules agreed upon 1708-9.

1720—Voted that a door be made in the west side of the Meeting House for passage from each gallery to the street.

1721—Action having been brought against the town for damages by flooding meadows in Gulf Mill pond attorneys were chosen to defend the town.

—Swine running at large in the highways and commons, not properly ringed and yoked, owners were held respon-

sible for damages, of one shilling per head and for damage done.

1722—Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to pursue the matter relating to the ferry between Milford and Stratford now in agitation in the General Assembly.

Note—There appears to be a gap in the records here of several years in which time it is probable a new Meeting House was erected.

1728—Voted seven pence on the pound for the Town charges and the charges for the building of the new Meeting House.

1729—Rate nine pence per pound. Rules passed for seating persons in the new Meeting House.

1730—Count Samuel Miles having died, Theophilus Miles, his son, is chosen Town Treasurer, to collect the remainder of the loan rate which his father had not done.

—Pews assigned to Zachariah Whitman and his heirs forever, also to George Clark the northeast pew in the gallery to him and his heirs.

Note—Zachariah Whitman, the ruling elder, left no child, but left his estate to his nephew Zachariah, son of his brother John of Hartford, named above.

—All the pews in the gallery to be granted to such persons as should, within one month apply to the Committee, such as they should choose and the Committee allow.

1731—Voted to accept of the grant to the town, by the General Assembly, of the liberty to set up a ferry on this side of the river called Stratford river. Voted to make the improvement and a committee chosen and given a very broad freedom in carrying out the plan.

1733—Selectmen chosen a committee with power to repair the old school house. If not profitable to repair the old building they were empowered to build a new one large enough to accommodate the town to meet in for Town Meetings and like purposes.

1734—Selectmen to take care of the school the ensuing year.

—Provision made for a bridge over Mill river on the Derby and New Haven road, for man and horse.

1735—Committee appointed to confer with Mr. Andrews in relation to the settling of another Minister in the town.

—Committee appointed to view the West End school house

and if not profitable to repair to build a new one at the West End, of such size as they shall think necessary. Meeting adjourned to February 2, 1736, at which time provision was made for procuring a Minister to assist our aged Minister as occasion may require.

1736—A committee waited upon Mr. Samuel Whittelsey, Jr., who after consideration accepted the call, which was reported at this meeting.

—Voted that the Selectmen of the town do give an order to John Fowler, Town Clerk, to transcribe into other books all such records as they think necessary and proper.

1736-7-9—As there were some in the town who were not satisfied to remain in the church and pay their share toward its support but dissented from the views of the new preacher, the men who were chosen to collect the rates brought the matter before the regular meeting for instructions.

1738—Mr. Samuel Whittelsey ordained Pastor of Milford Church.

1740—At the annual meeting held at the East End school house, the sextons were elected for the ensuing year. Among their other duties were to ring the bell, and give notice of deaths and funerals upon Sabbath days and other meetings. At a special meeting held May 5, 1740, the Hon. Dept.-Gov. Roger Newton, Lieut. George Clark, Capt. Samuel Gunn and Mr. Freegift Coggeshall or any three of them were authorized to procure a bell, as soon as convenient, for the use of the town, to weigh about five hundred and eighty pounds, not to exceed six hundred pounds. Rates for defraying charges for the bell are not to be levied upon the parish of Amity (Woodbridge). Rate 3 pence per pound.

1742—Voted that the tongue of the bell shall be larger than it now is, in order to help the sound thereof, the Selectmen to decide what size may be suitable.

1744—At a special meeting called for the purpose, the Selectmen reported the church steeple to be in a dangerous condition as they had found one plate and all the beams upon the top of the tower defective and very difficult to repair. The spire be taken down. Voted, to take it down and after such timbers are properly renewed and the floor of the

tower relaid, the spire should be rebuilt not to exceed forty feet in height from the top of the tower.

—Agreed by the town and voted that the Selectmen, with advice of David Sandford, be a committee to order a weathercock, how high and after what manner they shall judge proper.

1745—The Sexton is required to take care of the bell and clock. Rate fixed for defraying expense of repairs on Meeting House and putting up weathercock. A committee was also chosen to investigate a charge that a fence was being constructed so as to obstruct the passing and landing at the landing place at the Gulf.

1747-8—The prayer of Col. Samuel Eells, Benjamin Fenn, George Clark, Jr., and Ephraim Strong, in behalf of themselves and others " * * * that the town do vote and agree that every member in each congregation have free liberty, which meeting they shall attend * * * the money received to be equally divided; or if any other way could be provided by which we could unite under one roof, if it is for the glory of God, we trust we should embrace it."

1748—Josiah Platt, John Merwin and sundry others, inhabitants of the town of Milford, living at the East farms, commonly called Burwell's farms, pray for a part of the school money. Voted upon and decided in the affirmative provided, however, that the same be used for the schooling of children.

1749—Bridge authorized to be built across the Mill river at a place called Breakneck Plain.

—Money granted to Bryan's farm and Wheeler's farm for schools.

1750—Rates collected for the Minister for the year past were exclusive of the parish of Amity, and the persons whose names were entered with the Town Clerk as dissenters from the established church in Milford. Also a new layout of the road from Burwell's farm to Oyster river exchanging the present highway for land through that laid out to Johannah Gunn, right where the path now goeth toward Oyster river.

1751—Voted to lay out a highway three rods wide between Andrew Tuttle's land and the burying ground.

—A committee was appointed to search the records with reference to land sequestered and granted by the town for the use of a ferry, etc., and report at the next meeting.

1752—A committee was appointed to confer with Thomas Clark, Jr., with reference to the purchase of some part of his land adjoining the burying ground, to enlarge the burying yard.

—Assessments were made for schools at Bryan's farms, Burwell's farms, Wheeler's farms, and our own schoolhouse set up in the north end of the town.

1754—Capt. Stephen Stow of Middletown, who had married Freelove Baldwin of this town, purchased from Nathaniel Eells, the house now known as "The Stow House."

—A half penny rate was levied to keep the meeting house in repair.

1755—A committee appointed for a further conference with Mr. Thomas Clark, Jr., for land at the burying ground, also to make out an estimate of the cost to make up and finish the remainder of the work to enclose the burying yard.

1756—The town agreed to purchase the land lying eastward of the burying ground from Mr. Thomas Clark, Jr., and appointed a committee to finish the fence.

—The Selectmen with others to assist, lay out a highway to the Oyster Banks at Stratford Point. (Probably Peconic on Milford Point, at the mouth of Stratford or Housatonic river.)

1757—The King's troops were ordered to encamp at Milford during the winter of 1757 and 8, the town to quarter them. It was, therefore, voted to provide a house for the King's troops.

—Two men of the town were ordered to be prosecuted for the running over and wounding of Margaret Parker.

—The regular town meeting adjourned to meet April 26, 1758.

1758—(Probably for the reason that the King's troops were quartered in the school or town house, the regular meeting on December 26, 1757, adjourned, transacting little or

no public business, to meet at the church building at this time.) At this adjourned meeting at the church, a further provision was made for the King's troops.

1759—The records of this meeting do not show any mention of the destruction of the Town House by the British soldiers other than is implied by the fact that an indemnity fund was to be used in erecting the proposed new House. At this meeting David Baldwin was chosen as sexton for the ensuing year and was to ring the bell on all public occasions and "at nine o'clock o'nights."

—The last clause probably refers to the recently enacted law by the General Assembly at Hartford relating to tippling and drunkenness, which imposed a severe penalty upon any person found in a house where strong drink was sold after nine o'clock at night, and a more severe penalty upon the owner or occupant of such a house who should permit such a breach of the law upon his, her or their premises. Also it was voted to lay out the fifty pounds granted by the government to build a Town House, to be two feet larger in length and breadth than it was before and not "Exsed." Voted, that Mr. John Harpins, Jr., should build the house so far as the above said fifty pounds would go. Mr. Harpins to have no reward for his trouble.

—Agreed and voted by the town that Mr. Robert Treat and Capt. John Woodruff should be a committee to direct Mr. Harpins in the building of the Town House and to inspect his accounts and to curtail the same if they should think them to be unreasonable.

—Certain persons were exempt from taxes toward the salary of Mr. Whittelsey if they payed to Rev. Job Prudden and showed a receipt signed by him to the collector.

1761—Assessment of one penny per pound layed and collected to pay for finishing the ferry house, fencing, and other changes the Committee had made.

—Rev. Job Prudden is granted the improvement of two acres of salt meadow, in the part called the "elder's meadow," as long as he shall remain in the ministry in this place.

Note—The above items are of little consequence only as showing a disposition to recognize, in a legal way, the dissolution of the two factions.

1763—Vote taken to prohibit the taking of oysters from the Indian river during the few summer months. Committee appointed to perambulate and fix monuments to mark the line between Milford and New Haven.

1764—Agreed and voted to build a bridge over the run called East river, between Nehemiah Smith's and Zachariah Marke's.

1766—Voted a rate of one farthing for improvement of the schools, also voted that four schools be kept through the winter.

1767—Voted that for sick persons oysters may be taken with rakes until the town shall otherwise agree.

1768—Agreed that Rebecca Clark, widow, should have the profits of the pound which Lieut. George Clark built in the west end of the town so long as she shall keep the same in good repair and so that it answers for a pound.

Note—This is unique as allowing anything to a woman by vote of the town.

Voted to build a bridge over the river by the house formerly belonging to John Baldwin.

Note—This was before the mill was set up by Messrs. Treat, Buckingham, Fowler and Hayes, and no mill pond was near the Meeting House and the stream was narrow.

—Certain parties granted the exclusive right to plant and take up oysters in a limited acre in the Indian river above Fowlers Rock.

—Voted that the town should defend legally the suit now pending between citizens of Milford and Stratford, relating to fishing rights in the Stratford river.

—Agent appointed to petition the General Assembly to grant a certain section on Stratford river for a fishing place to Israel Curtiss and others. The General Assembly did appoint a disinterested commission consisting of Messrs. Thomas Darling of New Haven, David Burr of Fairfield and Col. Thomas Feleh of Norwalk, to hear and report upon the matter.

1774—Question whether the town will provide one or more agents to attend the Congress at Middletown, in the matter of claiming the right to land ceded to the State west of New York and the Susquehanna, the jurisdiction of which is claimed by Mr. Penn.

—Small pox having broken out in the town measures to control its spread were taken, and provision made for a house for the convenience of infected persons to be built, 40 by 18 feet, and the necessary bedding, etc., furnished.

—Meeting convened agreeable to direction of the eleventh article of association agreed upon by the American Continental Congress at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774. Resolved that we highly approve of and will abide by the association in every particular thereof and agreed upon.

Various committees appointed and also voted: That a subscription be opened forthwith for the relief and support of the poor inhabitants that are sufferers by the Port Bill.

1775—Voted that the great guns be mounted on trucks. The Selectmen provide all things necessary for use of the great guns. That bayonets and other provisions be furnished. That a minute post be established and continued until Monday next under the direction of Isaac Miles.

—A petition to the General Assembly to allow a company to be enlisted. Voted to grant some gratuity to those who had enlisted under command of John Fowler.

1776—Under stress of circumstances the use of powder, etc., for fowling pieces was forbidden.

—Vote to accept grant of General Assembly of permission to fortify, and committee appointed to select a place.

—Agreed that the fortification should be in West Point.

—Town to proceed to build a battery to be built by taxation. Land purchased from John Arnold to build battery upon.

1777—Agreed to provide for families of soldiers. Ten pounds voted to any citizen of the town who would enlist in the service of the United States for three years.

—Voted to provide clothing for the soldiers.

—"Classing Men" to fill up quota for Continental Army.

Note—The Continental troops were what are now termed regulars as distinguished from the Militia. ("Classing Men" are presumed to be recruiting officers).

—Voted to refund the several five pounds, paid by the "Classing Men," to raise men for the Army.

1778—Articles of Confederation are approved, except the eighth which it is thought should be modified (relating to methods of taxation).

1779—Twenty British transport ships anchored off Milford.

1780—Thirty pounds voted for every able-bodied recruit who enlists for the war. Six pounds for those who enlist for six months. Twenty shillings per month for those only who serve out of the town.

—Rate of six pence half penny state tax. Selectmen to ascertain town's deficiency in troops and procure enlistments.

—Tax laid for running town defence. Town to allow Committee for supplying soldiers' families, market price if not allowed by pay table.

1781-2—Committee appointed to raise and put up corn and flour for Continental Army. Committee appointed to procure a quota for Regiment now forming.

1783—Provisions made for soldiers' families, and encouragement to enlist.

Note—No record appears as to the closing of the war.

1784—Voted that the obligation for rent of ferry by Samuel Smith (deceased) be abated, and Selectmen directed to let out the ferry for three years.

—Committee appointed to meet with one appointed by General Assembly to divide the town stock between the town of Milford and the town of Woodbridge (recently set off as a separate township).

1785—Committee to view the road at Hog rock and report to a future meeting the probable expense of alteration.

—Committee on road at Hog rock reported and were instructed to carry out the scheme.

Note—The road formerly ran north of Hog rock to the ferry, but was afterward changed to its present layout south of it. The old road was called the "Witch's Road."

Note—In relation to the ferry there has been considerable speculation as to when it was given up and the bridge built over the Housatonic, which was apparently about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, hence the items.

1788—Selectmen to view burying ground in relation to its enlargement and to confer with proprietor on the east side.

1790—Isaac Jones granted liberty to erect a small building near the ship yard in which to labor, to stand such time as the Selectmen think reasonable.

1791—Selectmen directed to rebuild or repair the wharf or wharves of the ferry, etc.

Also to confer with Nathan Fowler in relation to the raising of his dam and flooding the road near the little Mill pond (so-called).

1792—Agent appointed to oppose the opening of highway beginning a little east of Jeremiah Bull's and running across several lots until it comes to Broad Street, a little west of Capt. Charles Pond's (now High Street).

1793—Gulf Wharf built by Charles Pond & Co.

1796—Milford Grenadiers organized. Capt. Daniel Sackett commanding. Scarlet coats with buff facings, gold lace trimmings, drab knee breeches with buckles, Suwarrow boots with buckles, pointed caps eighteen inches high of cloth, red front, buff back, Ostrich plumes and trimmings on edges of caps.

1797—Selectmen and Abraham Tomlinson to receive proposals for the ferry house, lands, and all the town's right to the ferry.

Also voted that it shall be lawful for any of the inhabitants to enter in and upon any land whatever within the limits of the town and to dig up and destroy barbery bushes growing thereon.

1798—Voted to sell the ferry provided $750 was offered, the purchaser to give security for double the amount, the property and rights in the purchase to be accepted as one half. The lease of the property and rights were secured by Joseph Hopkins of Waterbury for a term of 999 years, January 26, 1798, fully confirmed by vote of the town August 29, 1803.

1800—Post Office established U. S.

1802—Jefferson Bridge built and the bridge at "Blue Rock," just north of the railroad bridge, was abandoned.

—Presented a petition and citation from the New Haven and Milford Turnpike Company. The town voted that the turnpike should not cut through the land of the Milford people but follow the roadways except to cut sharp corners.

—Nathan Fowler requested the town to build a bridge near his mill across the flumeway, or aid and assist him

in building the same or make alteration in the road. Petition denied.

1804—Voted to lay out the highway through the west end lots and a committee was appointed to view a suitable place to run it from north to south, and report; also voted that the selectmen be desired to enlarge the burying ground next to the swamp or elsewhere.

1805—Church Society formed in North Milford. Rev. Erastus Scranton, pastor, married April 10, 1806, Mary E. Prudden.

1806—Washington Bridge partially destroyed by ice.

1808—Washington Bridge rebuilt, money raised by lottery. A negro belonging to Wm. Glenney died.

1810—Academy built near Meeting House Bridge. East side of the river, Gulf Bridge. Population of town 2,674.

1815—Selectmen decided to put the Town House in good repair.

1816—Grand list $54,320.

1819—100 dwellings within one mile space. Four corn mills, three fulling mills, three carding mills and three canneries. Regular packet sloops ran between this port and New York, carrying besides farm produce and assorted cargoes, many sugar and molasses casks to be reshipped to West Indies, returning with supplies for the merchants and general merchandise. Passengers were sometimes carried.

1822—The Town of Orange was incorporated though the Church retained the name of North Milford until 1842, when the following act of the General Assembly made a change. Be it enacted, etc., "That the name of the Ecclesiastical Society of North Milford, in the Town of Orange, be and the same is hereby altered to the name of the Ecclesiastical Society of Orange." They had been a separate society since 1805. Meeting House dedicated April 17, 1811.

1823—On this date the congregation met for the last time in the old meeting house that had served since 1728 and the building gave way to the present edifice.

1824—Voted: That a new town clock be purchased and the selectmen directed to dispose of the old one to the best advantage to the town. Also Voted: That the selectmen be authorized to let the burying ground for the pasturing of sheep only.

1825—This year the town purchased a hearse for the use of the people. Up to this time it was the custom to carry the dead for burial upon biers borne by the pallbearers, sometimes resting upon the shoulders, the people who followed generally in procession on foot, if able to walk. The town also ordered a horse for the hearse.

1830—Beach Bros. Carriage Manufactory.

1831—Baptist Society formed.. Met for some time in old Town House.

—Indian descendants of Wepowangs from Lake Champlain made a final visit to Poemic Point, in memory of their ancestors. The last Indian on the Indian reservation at Turkey Hill was Molly Hackett, pronounced a noble specimen of her race, and a general favorite with the pale-faces near.

1832—A Town Hall was erected about ten rods southwest of the old Town House, and the selectmen were directed to sell the old one, for which they received $152. The building was used by the Baptist Society for some time, but they later erected a new Meeting House. The meeting at which the final report was disposed of and a sexton appointed adjourned to the second meeting in January, 1833.

—Probate Court established in Milford, before probate business was done by county.

1833—Voted: The sum of twenty-five dollars for seating the upper room of the new Town House, and the call included a consideration of the matter of the Foot Bridge near Elisha H. Stow's house.

—At a special town meeting called to consider the matter of leasing ground, it was voted: That the selectmen be directed to lease to Canfield Curtis & Co., a site upon the vacant common westerly of the mill stream between Jefferson Bridge and the Episcopal Church, for a term of 999 years, for the purpose of manufacturing carriages, etc.

—Present Meeting House of Plymouth Church erected.

1834—Mr. E. R. Lambert petitioned the town for the privilege of making a copy of such town records as were desirable to publish in a history of the town, with a request to be permitted to take them out for a reasonable time. His request was granted under restrictions.

1835—Charles Island sold to John Harris for Country Seat.
—Mr. Lambert made a survey of the town, published a map of same, and in book containing other historical matter, included a history of the town.

1836—Marshall and Ferris petitioned the town for ground south of the Episcopal Church, to establish the manufacture of carriages. The said ground was never used for that purpose, but a carriage business was conducted on a Cherry Street site by Ferris Brothers for a number of years, finally destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.
—Methodist Episcopal Society of Milford was formed at the house of Stephen Gunn.
The Beach Bros. for many years conducted an extensive carriage business east of the river at the Maple Street Bridge. The buildings later used by Beecher & Miles for a short time, the American Hat Weaving Co. and the J. H. Fisher Co., straw hat manufacturers.

1837—M. E. Church Society bought a building for Meeting House.

1838—Rogers, Gardner & Davis began the manufacture of carriages.

1839—A Fire Company was organized and Theodore Buddington was foreman. The engine was the then popular type of side bar, hand drive, and was called Wepowang No. 1. It was housed in a small building near West River Street, perhaps three rods southerly from the present Municipal Building.

1840—Rev. David Coe appointed Assistant Pastor of First Congregational Church.

1842—Orange Church renamed Orange Eccl. Soc. from No. Milford Eccl. Soc.

1843—Mill partially destroyed by freshet.
—Town granted $150 to Nathan Fowler to put up a substantial stone bridge over the flumeway near his mill, he to forever keep it in repair.
Note:—This is the present causeway east of the Memorial Bridge. About this time this was washed out by a freshet and Mr. Fowler desired the assistance of the town to aid in rebuilding it.

1844—Methodist Society erected a new House yet standing as a part of "Smith's Block" on River Street, used by the

Society until the Mary Taylor Memorial M. E. Church was built, 1892-3.

1844—The I. O. O. F. Lodge was organized and for a time met in the basement of Plymouth Church, later over the store of Messrs. G. and M. Tibbals.

—New York and New Haven Railroad began work on roadbed.

1845—Baptist Society erected new Meeting House and the old building was moved to corner of Daniel and River Streets, said old building having been erected in 1760 by money furnished in part by the British Government to replace one destroyed by fire during its occupancy by British troops. It was in this building that the 46 American soldiers died and their faithful nurse, Capt. Stephen Stow, with them in 1777.

1848—Voted that Wallace C. Wilcox and others be given permission to place a cupola and bell on the Town Hall at their own expense and with the approval of the Selectmen.

—The first passenger train through between New York and New Haven. Mr. William G. Mitchell (lately deceased) said to have been a passenger on the first train.

1849—Gold fever raging. Ship "Isaac Bell" from New Haven, fitted out by mutual contributions, took about a score of adventurers from Milford, but few of whom ever returned.

—Rev. Mr. Primeo died.

1852—About this time the sewing machine was introduced in the town and operated by Miss Caroline McCoy (later Mrs. Wm. Bush), in the manufacture of shoes by Mr. Leonard Davidson. Episcopal Church erected.

—Messrs. Flagg & Baldwin began the manufacture of straw hats in Milford. Miss Mary Mills from England came as an expert to teach the sewing of braid into hats (she later married Mr. Isaac Green, Jr.). Mr. Harvey Beach, our esteemed citizen, yet among us, has been continuously in the employ of the successive managers since its inception.

—A monument was erected to the memory of forty-six American soldiers who, with their companions, were set ashore in Milford to the number of about 200 souls. These forty-six died and were buried in one common grave. The

corner stone was laid with imposing ceremony, Governor Seymour officiating.

1853—The advent of the Irish people in our town, during the construction of the railroad, was followed by a very generous settlement of them as permanent residents. Being almost entirely of the Catholic faith they early and earnestly set about providing themselves a house of worship. In spite of the many obstacles, being of the poorer class in purse, they gave freely, and in 1853 were able to meet under their own roof.

—A Gas plant installed at Straw Hat Factory. Wax candles had been in use there.

1854—Resolved: That David L. Baldwin, John Smith, Hammond R. Beach, and the association be given permission to remove the Town Hall northward to stand on or near the south line of the Baptist Church and westward to a line which shall leave the street not less than seventy feet in width, the east location to be determined by the Selectmen, and that in consideration of said improvement being effected by private means it is agreed that the space south of said buildings and between the two roads shall forever remain as a public green; laid on the table until the next meeting, when it was introduced in a new form, which was that a committee be appointed to fix a location for the removal of the Town Hall; carried in the affirmative.

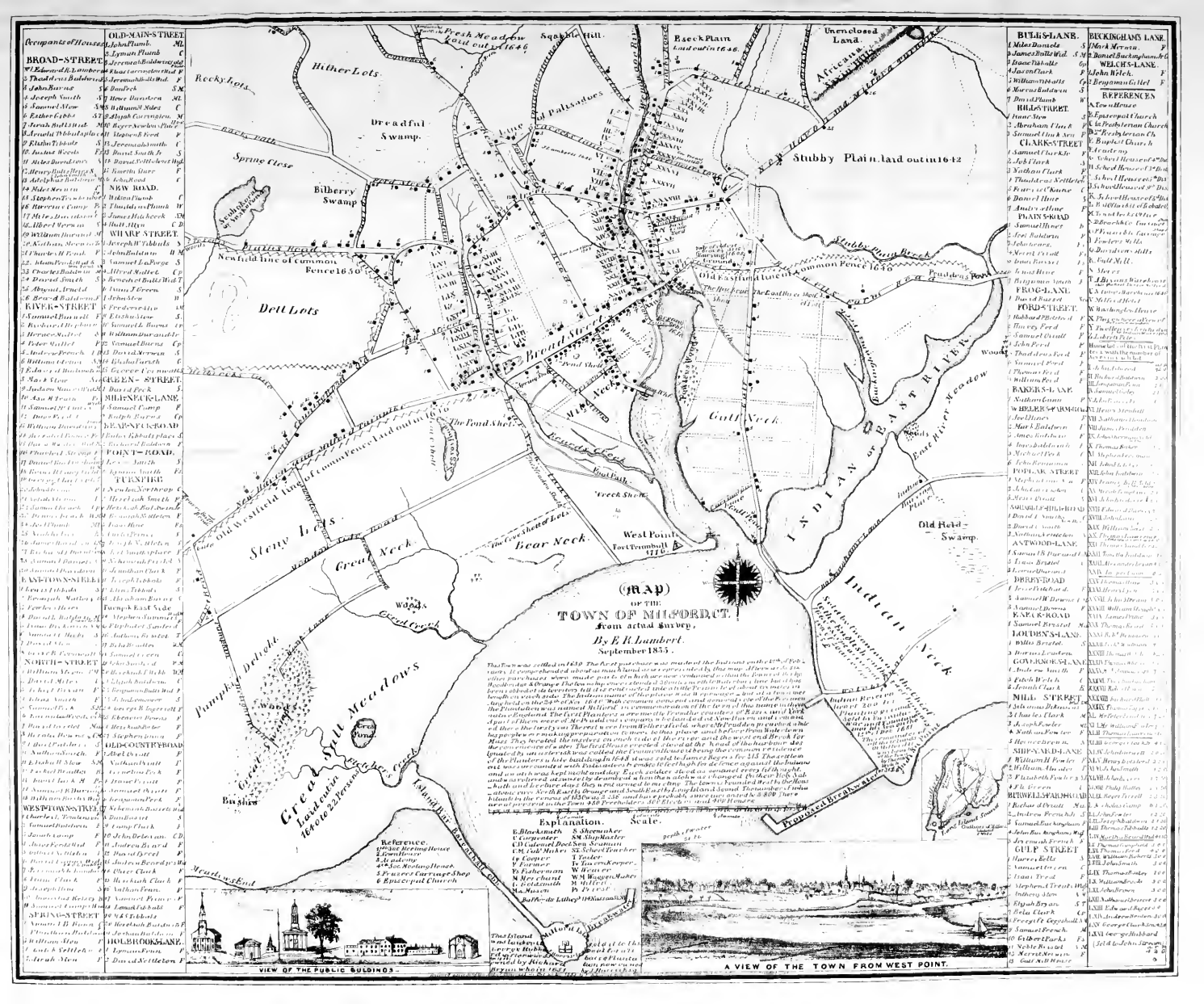
—The committee reported at next meeting, and a committee appointed to carry out the work.

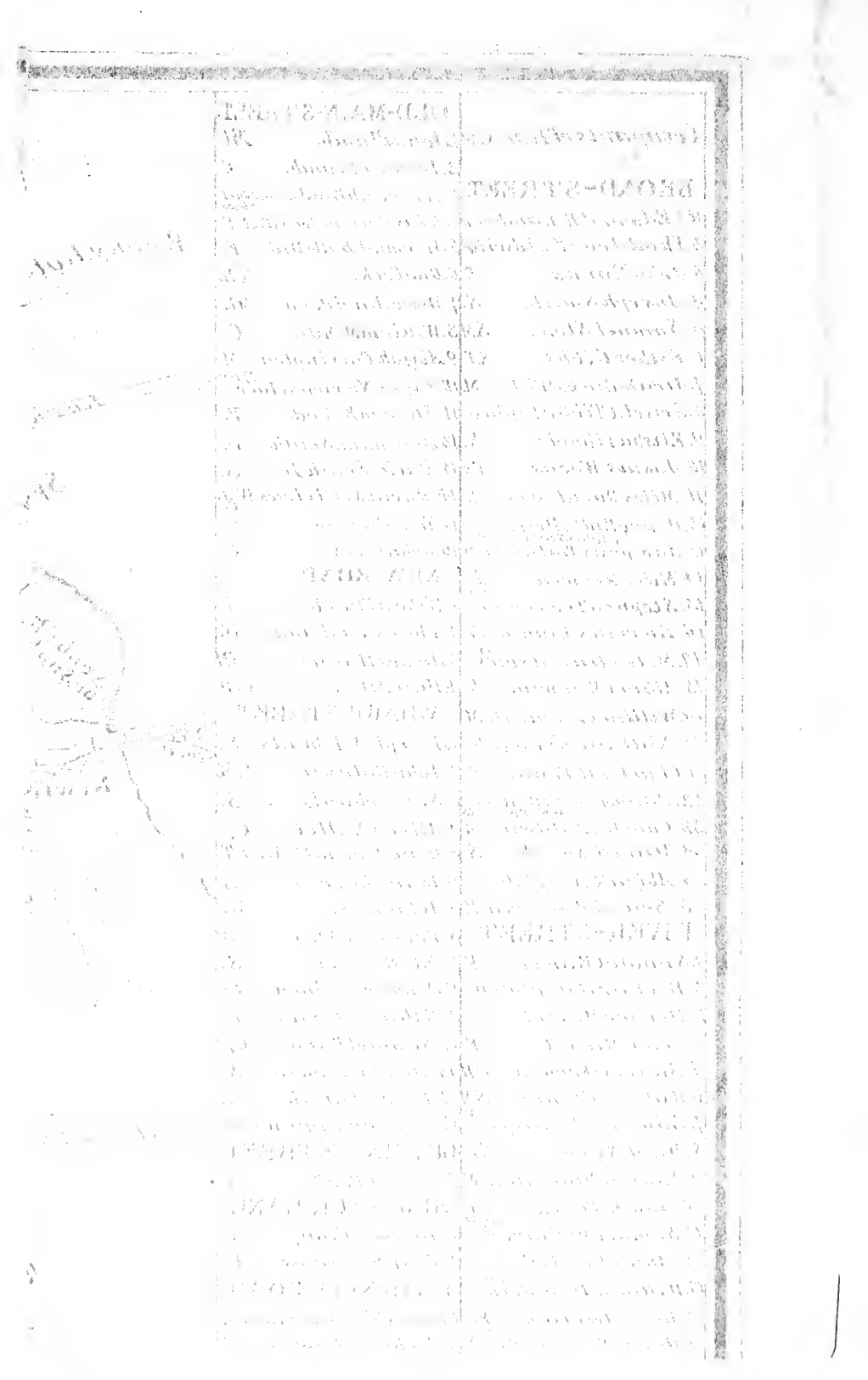
—The town voted that a new and more recent type of fire engine should be purchased and a more commodious building for its housing. The company took a new name, Arctic No. 1, and with it a new inspiration.

—About this time through the influence of Mr. Nathan G. Baldwin and Flagg Brothers, Elisha, Marshal and George, Mr. Nathan B. Merwin of the Milford House was induced to provide a room for the establishment of the Higgins Club which from that time has been a feature of our town.

—Town Hall moved in line with Baptist Church.

1856—In or about this year daily papers were distributed in Milford by Frank Chaydeane, and have continued to be supplied pretty regularly from that time. Coal burning


(MAP)
OF THE
TOWN OF MILFORD.T.
From actual Survey,
By E. R. Lambert.
September 1855.
Explanation.
Scale.
Reference.
VIEW OF THE PUBLIC BULDINGS
A VIEW OF THE TOWN FROM WEST POINT.
Occupants of Houses
BROAD-STREET.
OLD-MAIN-STREET.
BULLS-LANE.
BUCKINGHAM'S LANE.
WELCH'S-LANE.
REFERENCES
CLARK-STREET
HILLS-STREET.
NEW ROAD.
WHARF STREET.
RIVER-STREET
GREEN-STREET.
MILL-NECK-LANE.
BEARD'S-NECK-ROAD
POINT-ROAD.
TURNPIKE
NORTH-STREET
EAST-TOWN-STREET
WEST-TOWN-STREET
SPRING-STREET
HOLBROOK'S-LANE.
FROG-LANE.
FORD-STREET.
BAKER'S-LANE.
POTOK-STREET
SCHOOL-HOUSE-ROAD
ANTWOOD-LANE.
DERBY-ROAD
ESECK-ROAD
LOUDEN'S-LANE.
GOVERNOR'S-LANE
MILL-STREET.
SHIPYARD-LANE
GULF-STREET
Rocky lots.
Hither Lots.
Dreadful Swamp.
Spring Close
Bilberry Swamp
Dell Lots
Stew Leas
Great Neck
Bear Neck.
Gull Neck
Old Field Swamp.
Great Salt Meadows
Pamphe Delield
Island Pond
Indian Neck
Esseck Plain
Unenclosed Land.
Stubby Plain, laid out in 1642
Sasqua Hill.
Fresh Meadow laid out 1646
Old Path to Paugusset
Old Path to Stratford
Old Path to Fairfield
Old Path to Derby
Old Path to Newhaven
Old Path to Wethersfield
Old Path to Hartford
Old Path to Boston
Old Path to Newyork



locomotives were put on the railroad and soon the large wood piles were abolished.

1857—Curtis Bros. opened a drug store.
—Kerosene gaining in public favor.

1858—Hoopskirts manufactured by William Cornwall.
—The Milford Lyceum instituted.

1859—A Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was organized with eight Charter members, most of whom were non-affiliated members. Several others, either residents of the town or visitors, attended, and in 1860 twenty members were added.

1860—Presidential year and political organizations paraded the streets with uniformed men, torchlights and bands. About this time the colored people organized a Brass Band, first in town.

1861—Business dead. War clouds appearing. Neighbor scowling at neighbor, and at length the thunder bolt of war. George Van Horn was the first to don the Union Blue. He was a member of Capt. Chatfield Company in Waterbury and went with the company to the front. He later re-enlisted and served three years.

1862—Many enlistments from the town. Business very brisk. Specie payments suspended. Postage stamps used for small change.

1864—The manufacture of army shoes. Silliman & Co. employed many hands. The Bosworth Straw Sewing Machine introduced and company incorporated.

1865—A. A. Baldwin began the manufacture of fine shoes, later merged into the firm of Baldwin & Lambkin, and a new factory was erected on Broad Street.
—Gen. Lee surrendered up Appomattox. A few days later Mr. Lincoln was assassinated. Peace was soon declared and the Veterans began returning to their homes.

1866—The Telegraph Station in Milford. Peter Hobart, operator.

1867—Beecher & Miles began the manufacture of carriages in Milford. They also manufactured a wooden frame, direct drive, bicycle, wheels of equal size about 28 inches, similar in form to the modern pattern, probably in 1868 or 9.
—The Baptist Society having disbanded, the building was

sold to the town by Mr. Thaddeus Smith, to be used as a Town Hall.

1871—George Van Horn, Post G. A. R., organized.

1872—Milford Savings Bank Incorporated.

1873—First Weekly Newspaper printed in Milford.

1875—Graded School system adopted and new building dedicated.

1876—Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. Many in attendance from Milford.

1877—Harbor dredged and breakwater built by government appropriation.

1878—Masonic Hall corner stone laid.

1882—St. Mary's R. C. Church dedicated.

1885—St. Mary's R. C. Church first resident pastor.
—Woodmont Chapel Society organized.

1886—Lucia Chapter, O. E. S., instituted.

1887—Isabella Rebecca Lodge instituted.
—Volunteer Council, R. A., instituted.
—Milford Lyceum lost by fire 1 900 volumes.

1888—George Van Horn Woman's Relief Corps instituted.
—Soldiers Monument (Civil War) dedicated.

1889—Memorial Bridge dedicated.

1891—William Fowler Council. O. U. A. M., instituted.

1892—Wheel Club organized.

1893—Taylor Library Incorporated.

1894—Books of Milford Lyceum, transferred.
—Milford Citizen (Weekly) issued.

1895—Formal acceptance of Library of Town. President, W. B. Stoddard; Vice President, Miss Margharita Taylor; Secretary, Ernest Witterwell; Treasurer, William Cecil Durant; Librarian, Wallace S. Chase.

1896—Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter, D. A. R., instituted.

1898—Tuesday Afternoon Club (ladies) organized.

1900—Trolley line in operation.

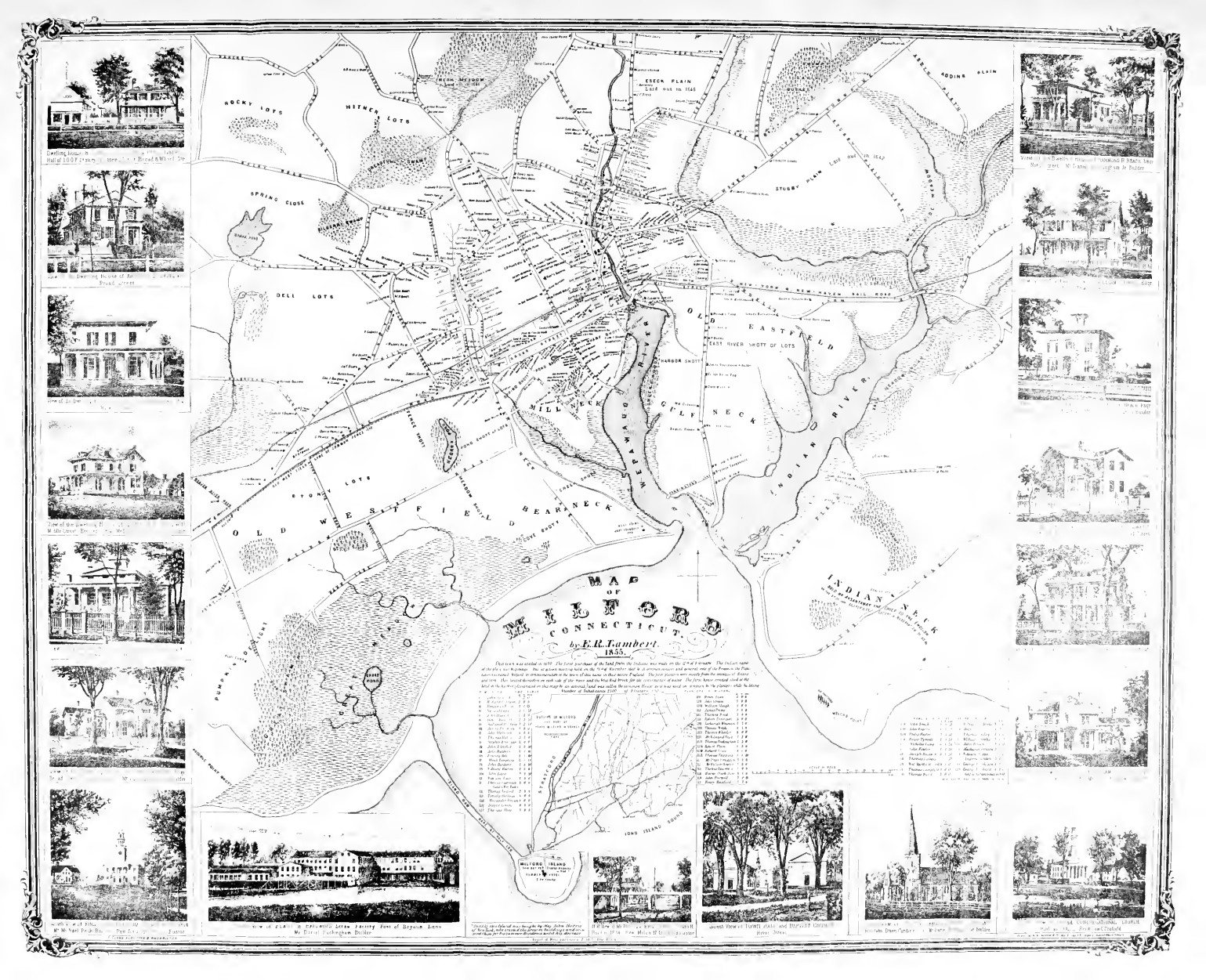
1904—D. A. R. Chapter House dedicated.

1905—Lauralton Hall passed to Sisters of Mercy.

1906—St. Agnes R. C. Chapel, Woodmont, dedicated.

1908—Central High School Building erected, cost $190,000.

1909—Village Improvement Association organized and incorporated.


MAP
OF
MILFORD
CONNECTICUT.
by E. R. Tambert.
1855.
ROCKY LOTS
HITHER LOTS
BELL LOTS
STONY LOTS
OLD WESTFIELD
BEARNECK
MILL NECK
EASTFIELD
INDIAN NECK
GULF NECK
ESECK PLAIN
STUBBY PLAIN
ADDINS PLAIN
SPRING CLOSE
NEW YORK & NEW HAVEN RAIL ROAD
HOUSATONIC RIVER
INDIAN RIVER
WEPAWAUG RIVER
LONG ISLAND SOUND
PUMPKIN DELIGHT
WEPAWAUG MOUNTAIN
STRATFIELD
MILFORD ISLAND

—Harbor Woods presented to the Village Improvement Association by Clark Wilcox. Transformed into Wilcox Park, and presented to the town.

—Franklin H. Fowler, gift of land for park.

—North Street Bridge (Old Kissing Bridge) dedicated.

—George Van Horn Camp, Sons of Veterans, instituted.

1910—Rodman Gun presented to the Village Improvement Association by the War Department, and mounted and presented to the town by the Association.

1911—Mortgage cleared from Chapter House, D. A. R.

1912—Milford Trust Co. opened for business.

1914—Ye Fowler's Mill, Memorial, corner stone laid.

1915—Municipal Building destroyed by fire. Records saved, otherwise total loss. G. A. R. lost everything. Furniture insured.

—Walnut Beach School building erected.

1916—Corner stone of new Municipal Building laid June 17.

—Additional land purchased by Cemetery Association.